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# SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

LYNWOOD, CALIFORNIA, U. S. A.

*Devoted to the  
Underwater World*

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## events dates places

Kit Guseila and the Sea Kings club of Detroit, Michigan, invite all of the clubs of the region to attend the "Skin Diver's Ball." Blast-off date is March 1, 1958, and the ramp is at Gramer's Hall, 27450 Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington, Michigan. Square and modern dancing. Michigan skin diving clubs are invited. More fuel is available from Kit at 15453 Kentfield, Detroit 23.

The Long Beach (Calif.) YMCA announces that its sixth consecutive year of diving class instructions will be touched off by a pre-summer course starting February 5, 1958. Harry Vetter, Los Angeles County Certified Instructor, makes note that this will be another co-educational class. Wives are to sign up and bring the husbands.

APRIL 20 IS THE DEADLINE for your club to be entered in the new Diving Club Roster that will be published in SD. We need a postcard from your club giving the name, address, city, state and president of the your club. This applies to all clubs, both new and old, as many of the clubs on the roster at the present time have changed addresses and officers. The former roster will be completely abandoned and a new one compiled. Register your club via the postcard to be officially listed on the Roster. APRIL 20 IS THE DEADLINE.

The huge Lynwood (Calif.) Natatorium will again open its door to skin divers and their equipment only on Tuesday nights starting February 4. Skin divers with gear only. 25c and 50c. 7 to 9 p.m.

Progressive and Accomplishment were the key words of the National A.A.U. Competitive Skin Diving Committee meeting at the Washington, D.C., A.A.U. Convention held in November, 1957. New and adequate rules were announced for the whole country, the Grand Bahamas were selected as the site of the coming National Spearfishing Competitions, the definition of an amateur for the purposes of competitive skin diving was put down in black and white (this alone was an accomplishment). Full report on the Convention and future plans of the Committee will appear here later.

## cover

Undersea action is captured by the camera of Mart Toggweiler of diver Ron Merker, his 16mm Sampson movie camera, and a lobster that he has just plucked from its lair. Taking underwater movies occupies most of Ron's submerged time; however, the temptation of the sizeable lobster was too much and now his hands are full. This cover photograph was taken with a Hasselblad camera.



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"SCUBA"

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OF SPEAR GUNS

"CHAMPION" Arbalette

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**AIR CRUISERS DIVISION**

BELMAR, NEW JERSEY

**Guest Editorial...**

**THE  
DIVERS  
FLAG**

By **TED NIXON**

(Former Editor, Great Lakes Diver)

How many of you have had a close shave with a power boat or other craft while you were underwater? Or have heard the whine of a power boat overhead and wondered just what would happen if you were forced to surface without knowing where that whine was coming from?

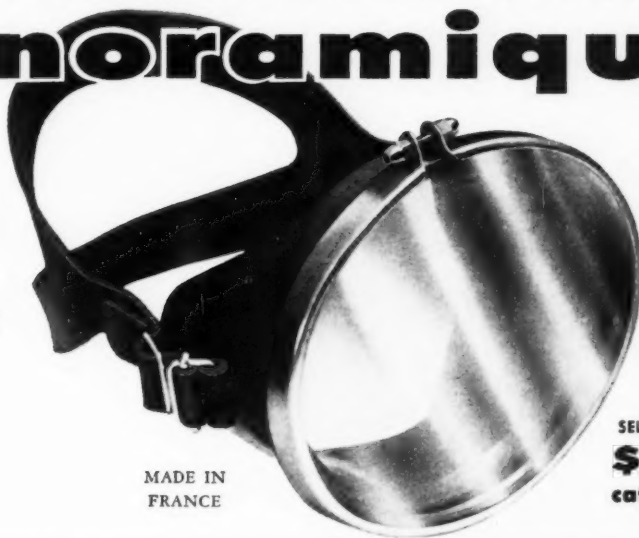
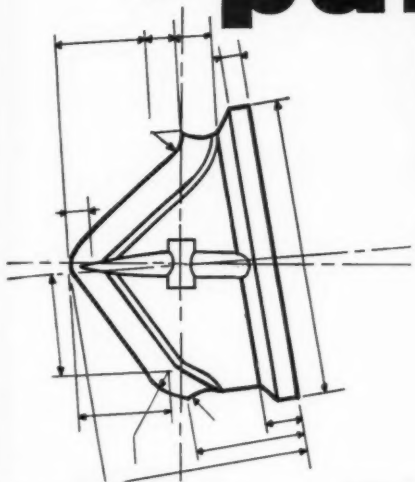
For several months prior to the Sports & Boat Show in Flint, Michigan in March 1957 Roy Pearce and I were discussing the possibility of a flag which would serve to warn all boat owners and operators of the presence of skin divers and Scuba divers. As a result of these discussions we began an extensive research into the meanings of several different flags, which had previously been proposed for this use, and discovered, as many of you have discovered, that there was no flag or emblem designed for this purpose, either for use by Navy divers or salvage divers no matter where they were operating.

After checking all of the flags and pennants used by the U. S. Navy and the International Code flags and pennants we discovered that the only system of warning or signals available were the Baker Flag, used to warn all approaching vessels of dangerous operations being carried on i.e., munitions handling, explosive cargo, etc., and a flag hoist consisting of the International code flags Charlie, Fox Trot, and Zulu.

As the Baker flag had several meanings in addition to the latter "B" this was ruled out immediately. The International flag hoist was also ruled out because of its size. (Each flag is 3' x 3' and would require about a 12 foot staff.) We then became acquainted with the much talked of Seven Flag and proceeded to check this flag out to see if it actually had any meaning which concerned diving. After personally checking the U. S. Navy "Blue Jackets Manual" and corresponding with several officers of the U. S. Navy that are connected with diving

(Continued on Page 8)

# Healthways first in water sports...leads again...proudly presents the **panoramique**



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**\$4.95**  
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## THE AMAZING NEW SKIN DIVING MASK WITH SLANT GLASS — WIDE ANGLE VISION!

*The PANORAMIQUE features the best qualities of world famous French masks plus many revolutionary design improvements:*

- Exclusive PANORAMIQUE "Slant Glass—Wide Angle" design eliminates eye-shade—tunnel-vision effect of all masks with straight lens...increases field of vision tremendously like a wide angle camera lens...literally gives a "Panoramic Wide Screen" underwater view!
- Curved back lip design eliminates usual excessive pressure on forehead and sinus inhalation areas...evenly distributes overall mask pressure!
- New flexible thin mask edge adjusts to all faces...small or large...gives best watertight fit...seals better the deeper the dive!
- Only professional mask with triangular head strap...sits on the head with amazing comfort...can't slip!
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Photograph and original French drawing show PANORAMIQUE design and slant angle construction.

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- Finest French Blue "Live Rubber"...tempered safety glass lens...precision metal lens lock-band...an outstanding quality mask...outstanding value!

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LINE AT THE NSGA SHOW...FEBRUARY 2-6...ROOMS  
984, 985, 986, 987, 988—MORRISON HOTEL, CHICAGO**

WORLD'S FINEST, MOST COMPLETE LINE OF WATER SPORTS AND SPORTS DIVING EQUIPMENT!

Dealer and Jobber inquiries solicited



## DIVERS FLAG

(Continued from Page 6)

ing we learned that the Seven flag has only one meaning—the number seven!

After all of the above research was completed the results proved beyond a doubt that there was no flag in existence which would serve the purpose we were seeking—to provide protection of divers from maiming or fatal accidents with surface craft.

At this time we came to the conclusion that if such a flag was to be used and thus provide us with the safety we wanted we would have to design and promote a flag which could not be confused with any other flag used anywhere in the world. Again, we undertook a long and tedious research program to become acquainted with flags used all over the world. We consulted flag manufacturers, local libraries, and every encyclopedia we could find that had anything in them which concerned flags whether they were national flags, marine flags, yachting flags, international code flags, or semaphore flags. Out of this research came the birth of the Divers Flag, which we can truthfully say is similar to no other flag in the world and also a flag that has one and only one meaning—"Caution—Diver Down."

We were lucky enough to have the design decided and completed in time for



DIVERS FLAG  
(Caution—Diver Down)

Photo compliments "Great Lakes Diver," by Earl Hunt.

the Flint Sports & Boat Show. It was at this time that we believe the Divers Flag received its first publicity. During the entire six day run of the show the prototype flag was shown and displayed at the booth maintained by all of the Flint Skin Diving Clubs combined. In addition to this the Master of Ceremonies displayed and described the meaning of the flag after each of the stage shows. Pamphlets describing the flag and its meanings were also distributed to all of the boat displays and were greatly received, many of the dealers saying that they thought the divers should be highly commended for their efforts to promote safety.

After the wonderful reception at the Sports & Boat Show Roy Pearce wrote an excellent article for the Great Lakes Diver and proceeded to create interest throughout the entire Great Lakes area. At the May meeting of the Michigan Skin Diving Council the entire council adopted the flag as the official flag to be used by its members. I believe the Michigan Skin Diving Council should be praised for the excellent job done in promoting the Divers Flag in Michigan. Pictures of the flag and its description have been published in numerous newspapers throughout the state of Michigan and also several television stations and radio stations have donated time to the promotion of the Flag. One of the main things to remember in promoting the Divers Flag is that everyone is actively interested in promoting safety.

One of the biggest problems encountered in the promoting of the Divers Flag was that the flag was not available for sale, the only way in which a diver could obtain a flag was to have his wife or mother make one. This problem was solved by contacting Annin & Co., flag manufacturers, in New York City and convincing them of the market for the flag. After they were convinced of the salability of the flag we were informed that the only way that they could sell the flags would be through one of their

(Continued on Page 10)

**Lightweight Aquamatic Regulator . . . Carry in any position! Can be used instantly!**

A  
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## AQUA-LUNG TRAINING UNIT

Carry your tank in any position and still have equal breathing. No more worries about regulator being higher or lower than mouthpiece. Low pressure stage incorporated in mouthpiece gives you flexibility of position. Strap tank on back, chest, leg—anywhere. Instantly used by placing mouthpiece in mouth. This new Aqua-Lung Training Unit, made to high Aqua-Lung standards by manufacturers of the world-proven Aqua-Lung, is perfect for the spearfisherman who regards the Aqua-Lung as a handicap. Weighs 6 lbs. Used, tested, approved by Oceanic Research Associates. Consists of \$39.95 20-min. compressed air tank and K Valve, Aquamatic Regulator, built-in automatic reserve and Universal harness with quick-release buckle. ppd. 5 lbs. 20-min. 2150 P.S.I. Tank—\$14.95 ppd. • A.M. Aquamatic Reg.—\$29.95 ppd. Non-Returnable Mouthpiece • 1 Yr. Aqua-Lung Unconditional Guarantee



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There are also some key additions to the skin diving line... compact, hard-hitting guns and lightweight, durable knives.

There's a boat, too. A light, tough inflated boat that measures about 8' x 5'. Easy to store and to use. The perfect addition to your diving gear.

Add these to the dozens of traditional Voit items, and you'll see a complete range of quality swim equipment for every price and skill.

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## DIVERS FLAG

(Continued from Page 8)

recognized distributors. This problem was dissolved when Mr. Pearce and I succeeded in selling a distributor in Lansing, Mich. on buying the flags from the manufacturer. At this time St. Clair Divers Co., in St. Clair Shores, Mich. is also making the flag. This has been a great help in the growth of the Divers Flag.

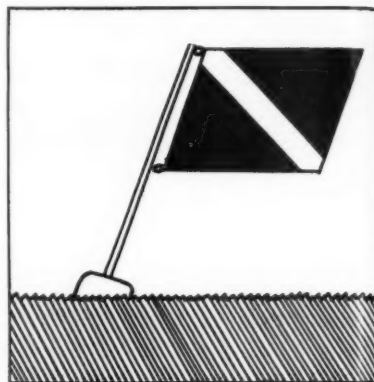
One of the greatest tasks in promoting the Divers Flag has been the education of the boat operators as to its meaning. Along this line great strides have been made. In the forthcoming issues of several boating magazines will be articles concerning the Divers Flag. These articles will be of the utmost importance in the education of boat operators all over the country. The Conference for National Cooperation in Aquatics has accepted the Divers Flag. The American Red Cross has also offered to help promote the flag, as a result of this the flag has already been shown at the National Small Boat Safety Conference and the Executive Committee of the CNCA and will also be shown at the U. S. Power Squadron Convention and the Coast Guard Auxiliary Convention. With the aid of these organizations the Divers

Flag will become a nationally recognized flag. There is also the possibility that use of the Divers Flag and observance of its meaning will be mandatory under law in the State of Michigan before the end of 1958.

We have been requesting that all surface craft keep a minimum of thirty (30) yards between themselves and the Divers Flag. When spearfishing the float and flag can be towed behind the diver, or, if diving in kelp or other marine vegetation in which such a towline would become entangled, the float and flag can be anchored. When diving in one particular spot, such as while doing a small salvage job, four flags can be anchored in a rectangular pattern around the area in which you are diving. If diving from a boat it is suggested that the flag be flown from the boat.

As an example of effectiveness of the Divers Flag, when given the proper promotion, a diving club in Flint held a spearfishing contest last May, two months after the flag was introduced, at one of the popular boating lakes in the Flint area. Ten of the Divers Flags were anchored at intervals all the way across the lake and the contest was held in one-half of the lake and there were no surface craft that crossed the line made by the flags! Safety boats accepted.

## DIVER'S SAFETY SIGNAL



**DIVERS FLAG.** Red and white with up-right flotation buoy and staff. Here is an ideal safety item for the S.C.U.B.A. diver. Can be anchored in the area the diver is using or a set of four can mark off an area for the diver's safety against unaware motor boats. Price—Flags are available for \$1.69 and the complete up-right float and flag for \$3.95. Distributed by St. Clair Divers Company, 24400 E. Jefferson Ave., St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

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# DACOR DIVING LUNG

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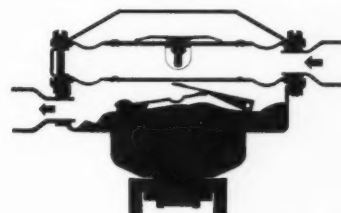
This remarkable reduction applies on both standard and reserve valve lungs. Now you can enjoy the pride of ownership of a DACOR at the lowest prices ever offered on a Navy approved lung—The Big Swing Is To Dacor—The Greatest Value of All.

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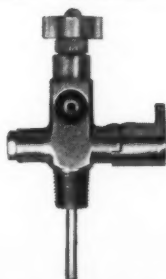
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COMPLETE LUNG:

with standard valve \$12450

with reserve valve \$13950

## DACOR CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 551

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# LETTERS

## DIVERS FLAG

... Upon reading your article about the skin divers flag we readily adopted the Divers Flag. The only modification was—in-  
stead of using a cloth flag we use a board 12" x 12". This is attached to a piece of wood 3/4 inches by 3 feet with a buoy in the middle and on the other end of the wood pipe is a lead weight to hold it in an upright position. Right on the flat end is a screw-eye to attach the rope. In 3/4" letters we printed on both sides of the flag—DIVER BELOW.

We believe this gives the best results as it is always visible whether the water is rough or calm.

Gerald J. Le Breton  
Treas. Diving Devils  
New Orleans, La.

... I have been doing skin diving in the state of Michigan for two years now and I think that a flag is a needed part of a divers equipment, as I have been under the water a number of times when small boats happened to be running around me and it is a terrible feeling when it is time to surface, and those boats are around. Also I have been diving and people in boats come around trying to find out what you are looking for.

I am very happy to send in my vote for the DIVERS FLAG.

Dennis C. Foust, BMI, USCG  
Essexville, Michigan

... In regard to the problem of which flag to use to indicate that divers are in the area, we would like to say that we think the "Divers" Flag is the better of the two flags. The "Divers" Flag (red flag with diagonal white stripe) can be seen easily whether or not there is a wind blowing. We think this is an important factor in choosing the right flag for all divers to use. Because if a boat owner did not see the white stripe, they might misinterpret the meaning of the flag and investigate or not pay any attention to the flag and pass through the diving area not knowing there are divers in the area, which could prove to be dangerous to the divers in the area. This is why we think a flag which could be identified at all times is the best type. The "Divers" Flag is also used by most of the divers in the Great Lakes area, where there is a large amount of shipping and boating going on and it is necessary to have a flag which is identifiable at all times. Its worth has been proven in the Great Lakes area. We also feel that if the majority of the skin divers accept this flag, the shipping concerns, the Navy, etc., will most likely also adopt the "Divers" Flag.

Roger Griffith  
Glen Ellyn, Ill.  
and  
Terry Groener  
Lombard, Ill.

... I contacted C. F. Chapman, the Editor of Motor Boating Magazine, a few days ago regarding the skin divers flag. Motor Boating is one of the largest national magazines devoted to yachting.

I am quoting his letter in full:

"Dear Mr. Jacobs:

"We have your note of 29 October, 1957 in reference to the flag adopted by your organization which we certainly approve of. We have written a note for the December issue of Motor Boating and will forward your letter to the Editor of the United States Power Squadrons Ensign so that he will be in a position to mention your flag. We will also try to mention the flag at the coming USPS Governing Board meeting. — C. F. Chapman, Editor."

If all clubs and councils contact any boating groups or publications regarding this flag, I think it will solve one of skin diving's biggest dangers.

Will Jacobs  
Hartford, Conn.

## BUDDIES WANTED

... I should like to contact any responsible divers in the Oakland-San Francisco area or any clubs that might be available in this area.

I am thirty years old, single, and while not an expert I am no beginner, having been around the water all my life. I have dived in the Hawaiian Islands, Marshalls, Mariannas, and at Johnston, Canton, and Samoa. I was in Commercial fishing before joining the Coast Guard in 1955. I am more interested in underwater photography rather than spear-fishing.

Donald R. Hayhurst EN 2  
Oakland Harbor Light Station  
Western Pacific Mole  
Via Adeline Street  
Oakland, Calif.

... I am 21 years old and a student of Wayne State University (I need a diving partner). I have a complete diving outfit and my experience is varied.

Norman Robiner  
18246 San Juan Drive  
Detroit 21, Michigan

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SKIN DIVER  
LYNWOOD, CALIF.

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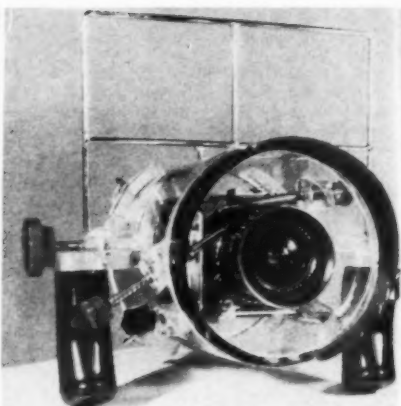
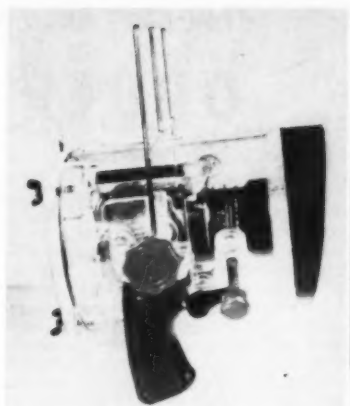
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## HASSELBLAD GOES UNDERWATER

Of all cameras, the Hasselblad Super Wide makes the Cadillac of underwater still outfits. With a 90 degree field (approximately 75 degrees underwater) it is possible to get full figure shots with only four feet of water between camera and the subject. The great depth of field means razor sharp  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$  negatives or transparencies even when the focus is not on the button. Relatively slow f4.5 lens is no problem when using the modern fast films.

The controls for the expensive and exacting Hasselblad camera when it is

installed in an underwater housing are tricky to install. On the camera above external operation is provided for focus, f stop, film advance, shutter cocking and shutter release. The black 'eyebrow' protects the front plate from scratches and helps prevent stray light flares.

This underwater camera housing for the Swedish Hasselblad was designed by Mart Toggweiler using Dive-Rite control glands. Duplicates of the housing have been manufactured for Gene Daniels of the Black Star Bureau and Hollywood photographer Tom Kelly.

## DICK BONIN JOINS SWIMASTER

Richard J. "Dick" Bonin, Jr., formerly of one of the country's largest distributors of swim sports equipment, has joined Swimaster, an affiliate of Pacific Moulded Products Co. as Sales Manager. Dick will head up the sales of the outstanding Swimaster line including such products as Duck Feet and the Wide View Mask.

Dick brings with him a wide experience in sports, having won three heavyweight boxing championships and been appointed to two All Conference football teams; but his outstanding achievements in diving will be his greatest advantage at Swimaster.

Bonin was one of the 20-30% of the volunteers who graduated from the strenuous Navy Underwater Demolition Team basic training program at Little Creek, Virginia. After U.D.T. basic, he was assigned to the Submarine Escape Tank at New London, Conn. Advanced underwater training at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands resulted in his appointment as Diving Officer/Submersible Operations Officer for U.D.T. 22. His duties consisted of Scuba training for new frogmen, testing and evaluating new



underwater equipment, and hundreds of classified Navy U.D.T. operations including rescues, searches, down-plane exploration, and salvage work. Dick has conducted diving operations from the Caribbean to the Arctic.

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SKIN

# Underwater Book Shelf

## A Guide To Underwater Photography

by Dimitri Rebikoff

and Paul Cherney

This is a guide for skin divers who want to photograph their activities and the sights under the sea. Complete information on equipment and techniques of submarine photography and movie making.

BOOK #1.....\$1.95

## American Seashells

by R. Tucker Abbott

This beautiful big book, 541 pages plus 80 pages of color and black plates, paintings and drawings, covers definitive identifications of some 1500 varieties on Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf Coast shores.

BOOK #2.....\$12.50

## Skin Diving and

## Exploring Underwater

by John Sweeney

176 pages, 8 illustrations. In this handy manual you're told exactly, what systems, practices, precautions and techniques the sport of skin diving demands. Explains how to use flippers, snorkel and face mask for simple dives and gives complete instructions on using the Aqua-Lung.

BOOK #3.....\$3.50

## Diving for Science

by Lynn Poole

A different book on diving, tells of diving as an important type of scientific research. Discusses latest findings in the fields of underwater mineral and oil deposits, exploration of sea caves, charting fish migration.

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## A Manual for Free Divers Using Compressed Air

by D. M. Owen

Underwater divers find this practical and realistic book complete on the mechanics and hazards of diving with self contained underwater breathing apparatus. Includes full discussion of the physiological aspects of diving.

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## The Master Diver and Underwater Sportsman

by Capt. T. A. Hampton

Authored by Chief Instructor of the British Underwater Centre. Explains stages of training in underwater swimming, diving, scuba, and helmet diving. Explains cutting, welding, blasting and seamanship.

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## Billy's Search for

## Florida Undersea Treasure

by Minerva and Russ Smiley

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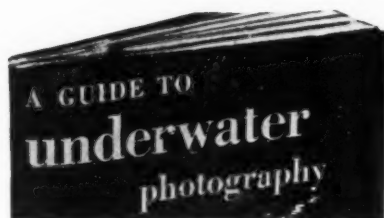
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## 2000 Fathoms Down

by Cmdr. Georges Houot

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The authors of this book relate how they spent 30 thrilling minutes on the ocean bottom, 13,287 feet down, in the French Bathyscaphe. Dramatic, absorbing record of man's deepest venture.

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by Folco Quilici

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## Men and Sharks

by Hans Hass

Adventures of Hans Hass and group in the coastal waters of Greece. The expedition was both a scientific field trip and a motion picture venture by which the author hoped to demonstrate his thesis that sharks are not really very dangerous to humans.

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## The Undersea Adventure

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From the intrepid frogmen of 480 B.C. to William Beebe's Bathysphere, from how to charm an octopus and scare a shark to sardines and whales. Our own prehistoric origins to the present offshore oil controversy, all these are but a few of the topics in this book.

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## Diving to Adventure

by Hans Hass

The early underwater foot-steps of the famous author from his first swim, his first goggles on the French Riviera, meeting Guy Gilpatric, and his wonderful experiences in the West Indies with spear and camera. Originally published in 1947.

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## The Gates of the Sea

by Philippe Diolo

The author's third book devoted to the sea is the culmination of a trilogy pointed to the exploration of a weird and wonderful land... the world beneath our oceans. If you have enjoyed Diolo in past books, this one is his best.

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## The Compleat Goggler

by Guy Gilpatric

The first and perhaps the most entertaining book ever written on undersea adventure. A story compiled when the complete equipment consisted of goggles, knife and a hand spear. A "must" to add to your underwater literature.

BOOK #27.....\$5.00

## Underwater Photography

by Hilbert Schenck and

Henry Kendall

Enlarged Second Edition. Details on techniques of underwater photography, box construction, strobe, lighting, waterproofing, exposure, filters, etc.

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## Shallow Water Diving

## and Spearfishing

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and Henry Kendall

Chapters cover diving science, helmet diving, mask diving, recirculating and throw-away diving equipment, spearfishing, commercial shallow water diving and the ocean inhabitants.

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## Marine Tropicals

by Ed L. Fisher

The first comprehensive handbook explaining a new successful method for maintaining marine fish and animals. Illustrated. Collecting living creatures and plants from the sea is fun, if you know how and if you can preserve them in natural salt water.

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## Guide to American Waters

by Hilbert Schenck

For skin divers and spearfishermen planning vacations away from home. Maps of all popular diving areas with shells, fish, temperatures and approximate visibility to be expected in each region. Many fresh water areas also.

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## DIVE SHOP CHATTER

By **CHUCK FREMDLING**

Don and his brother George Brauer of Anaheim are looking for a suitable location for a dive shop, presumably in the area of Lakewood and Downey. Good luck, fellows.

Ed Lorr of Inglewood has just recently taken over the Parker Boats and Motors at 680 No. Coast Blvd. in Laguna Beach. Assisting Ed is his wife Ellen who helps with the manufacturing of suits. Fellows, when you are in the neighborhood, drop in, pay a visit and get acquainted. You will like them.

Duvall's Marine Shop, 3855 W. Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, with its new owner, Bill Farnsworth, and his two sons have a large display of boats and Mercury motors is now going into complete diving gear, including air. And some of you dealers listen to this; they are directly across the street from Fedco.

Bob Williams and the Whitehead brothers of Aqua Divers in Lomita have just added to their diving shop a complete line of boats, motors and marine supplies. All of you divers that have underwater gear better drop in and see their new boat lines, that's your next step. This doesn't mean to put Jack Kirk of the "Vellron" out of business either.

What well-known diver that has been hunting gold in Mexico who can be identified by his 49'er mustache is being chained to his store now? None other than Underwater Sports Shop's Bill Hogan of Long Beach. You guessed wrong. The divers want to hear of his experiences. It might be interesting to know that Bill is purchasing a larger compressor to answer the demands.

Mel Fisher and his lovely wife Dolores are planning an extended trip to the islands this coming February. Plans are to make another feature film and will probably be gone for the entire month. We will hear more about it when they return. Good hunting Mel and Dolores.

Remember fellows, never dive alone and always double check your gear. >>>



Chuck Fremdling

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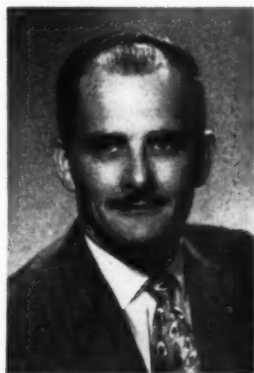
## Dawn-Cassou Co. Formed For Sales On West Coast

Harry Rice, Sales Manager of U.S. Divers Co., announces the appointment of the Dawn-Cassou Company as their Sales Representatives for the States of California, Oregon and Washington. Dawn-Cassou will be offering jobbers and dealers the U.S. Divers complete line of quality diving and swimming equipment.



Forest Dawn

Forest Dawn has been the Sales Representative for U.S. Divers Co. in California for the past several years. Prior to this, he was associated with the marine and commercial fishing industries. Forest first became interested in diving while serving as a swimming instructor with the U.S. Navy. He has since become a Certified Diving Instructor in Los Angeles County. Since joining U.S. Divers Co. he has been actively promoting diving in the sports and commercial fields.



James Cassou

James Cassou has been actively representing marine, tackle and diving equipment for ten years on the West Coast. He has been Sales Representative for such companies as Tru-Temper Corporation, McCune-Merifield Company

Underwater Club of Canada . . . Boat Owners Club . . .

## TESTS FOR PURE AIR

By C. B. DAVIS

We have carried out considerable research into the problem of air testing and have been asked many questions about it. Because of the interest shown in this facet of air work we have included in our report a few words on the subject.

We have at our disposal an Ingersoll Rand Model 3321G air compressor, trailer mounted.

We feel the following words will be of utmost interest to those groups using compressors: Our filter media is Activated Alumina for moisture removal and a standard felt filter for dust. The compressor of the type we use is a fine machine for this work and will deliver clean air while in good shape. Eventually, however, due to wear, a small amount of oil may work past the pistons into the cylinders and bad air may result. In our investigations for detection of Carbon Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide, we found that air passed through Calcium Hydroxide Solution (lime water—cost about 75 cents per quart), is the simplest test and will turn the solution milky if carbon dioxide is present.

Air passed over a piece of filter paper (or blotting paper) dipped in Palladium Chloride (\$2.00 per fluid oz.) will turn the paper from pink to green or black depending on the CO concentration.

Since carbon monoxide is perhaps of most importance, we believe that any Club using compressed air should have some periodic check on their supply compressors to insure safe, clean air. There are also instruments available for testing.

We will be happy to hear from anyone interested in this problem. Write: The Underwater Club of Canada, Box 26, Adelaide Street P.O., Toronto, Ontario, Canada. ✉

and The Garrett Corporation. He recently resigned from The Garrett Corporation, where he had been handling the sales and distribution of the Northhill Anchors and Air-Lung.

The Dawn-Cassou Company will specialize in sales of water sports and marine equipment to the jobber-dealer trade, with emphasis on dealer contact and promotional work. They have offices at 5522 West Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles 16, California. Phone: WEBster 8-7296. ✉

## POWER DIVERS

By JOSEPH BOLOGNA

The number of boat owners that are becoming divers is ever increasing. Many a pole fisherman has had the yen to set aside his pole and go down after that big one that got away; or just to explore below the water line that marks the limit of man's environment.

Chuck Stewart and Dave Sisk are two experienced divers that recently acquired a 16 foot outboard named Char-Von, in anticipation of making those weekend dives at Catalina. However, many things can happen to a weekend Captain and his boat between here and the Island. In diving at the breakwater Chuck and Dave found many divers with boats that were interested in 'getting together' for a trip to Catalina. The number has grown and we are now ready to charter a club formed by skin divers with boats. A suggested name for the club is Power Divers.

There are two reasons for forming such a club. SAFETY in lung diving and SAFETY in boating. The sea is always waiting for the unwary and there is safety in numbers. On our last dive a lobster fisherman cut right between our boats and over the heads of many divers in the area. Something should be done to protect divers in a given area. It has been suggested that boats could form a circle around the diving area and fly the Divers Flag.

Besides the safety angle we found it more fun to travel and dive in a group. The various boats have competitive dives. Some new divers found other new divers that matched their own capabilities. More divers in the area move the fish about. Another diver may herd that big fellow right towards you.

Finally, there should be a Search, Rescue and Salvage branch of the club adopting the best means of searching, rescuing and salvaging in an emergency.

"Skin Diver" Magazine feels that such a club would be an asset in any harbor from Florida to California. This may be the beginning of a new group of clubs all over the country. If there are already any such clubs we would like to hear from you concerning your charter and safety procedures.

Boat owners and divers in the Los Angeles Harbor District can contact Chuck Stewart at 1318 South Center St., Compton, Calif., or call Newmark 12223 for information on the new Power Divers club. ✉



***Dacor Diving Team Invades...***

# THE BLUE HOLE

**By DON DAVISON**

**Photography by Jim Stark**

**H**OW FAR is up—or down? How many birds in a covey? How long is a piece of string? Most of us have been asked these questions in a spirit of fun. In all seriousness, the inhabitants of Castalia, Ohio are asked—How deep is deep?—How far is bottomless?—What is abysmal?—questions for which they have no factual answers. These are asked about the Blue Hole, Ohio's Greatest Natural Attraction, an artesian spring fed by an underground river, the beauty of which is admired each year by more than 200,000 visitors from all over the world.

Castalia's residents *can* tell that the spring was discovered in 1761 by Major Robert Rogers of the British Army and that long before the first white settlers came in 1810, Indians had set up a large medicine camp to drink the crystal-like water and gaze in wonder at the beauty. They know that the Indian Village at Castalia was destroyed by the English Army for which Chief Pontiac contrived his revenge by massacring the white men of the settlement and forcing the women and children, as prisoners, to walk to an Indian Village at what is now Detroit, Michigan.

They know that Castalia was named in honor of Fons Castalius, a celebrated fountain in a chasm of Mt. Parnassus near Delphi, Greece; that the flow of water from the spring is 7519 gallons per minute, almost ten million gallons daily or enough to supply a city of 75,000 people; that the water

Blue Hole explorer Don Hue just under the surface on his way down to tie the nylon safety rope for the other divers. Great piles of money were found on the sides and bottom.

**SKIN DIVER—February, 1958**

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comes from an underground river source so deep that it is entirely devoid of oxygen; that fish cannot survive in it until it is aerated by passing over water wheels and a series of falls; that the sizeable Cold Creek, formed by the spring, then becomes a paradise for trout; that the spring and seven miles of the stream which interlaces the ground as it meanders toward Lake Erie, are within five minutes walk to any point from the clubhouse; that the spring, stream, clubhouse, hatchery where millions of trout are raised, and the grounds of the park are owned by a non-profit corporation whose stock-holders derive only recreation from their investment.

They know of the many attempts to determine the source of the underground river which supplies the spring; that scientists from universities have put dye and radiosonde equipment into underground rivers even two hundred miles away without success in locating the source; that some ten years ago, a weight attached to 5000 feet of line was let into the Hole in an attempt to solve the mystery of the depth and source; that looking down into the crystal clear water from outside the protective fencing, six feet from the water's edge, the visible depth is apparently 50 or 60 feet; that the water never freezes, remaining at 48 degrees both winter and summer and the flow never varies in drought or flood.

They know of claims by visitors for the therapeutic value of drinking the water and of one crippled visitor who discarded her crutches. They know the legends of the Indian maiden whose body was never recovered when she threw herself into the Blue Hole in her grief over the loss of her warrior lover, and of the farmer with his team and wagon who were lost there in around the year 1820; that to toss a coin into the water while gazing into the blue depths will make the accompanying wish come true and that for decades, the great majority of visitors have exercised this parallel to the rubbing of Aladdin's Lamp; and that if 200,000 annual visitors for one decade had tossed a dime into the water, more than \$200,000 would repose there; and even without this great wealth which it holds, the Blue Hole is the most extraordinary artesian spring in this continent.

They know that Cleveland is their eastern suburb, Toledo their western, and at Sandusky on Lake Erie, their northern suburb, is based the world's largest freshwater fishing fleet. They know that Thomas A. Edison was born and raised at Milan, Ohio, just to the east, where his home has now been made into a public shrine; and that the Ohio Turnpike makes for easy access for the nation's visitors.

Yes, the people of the hospitable Village of Castalia know a great deal about the Blue Hole and, in their inherent friendliness will answer many questions, but they lack answers to the three most frequently asked—The source of the water, the depth of the Spring, and the probable value of the coins visible on the sides and bottom.

For two years, we of the DACOR Corporation, had been seeking the privilege of diving the Blue Hole with a view to supplying some of these answers. Two years of frequent personal visits, innumerable phone calls, and countless letters before we were able to convince the Association of the value to them of an exploratory dive. Then more lost time while wading through the maze of legal complications in satisfying their stringent demands for adequate liability and insurance coverage. Finally, permission was granted to make the dive any time after their closing date of November 1, and their opening date of April 30.

November 11, Armistice Day of 1957, dawned bright and clear with a similar forecast for the following day, so assembly was blown for the four of us who were insurance and Association cleared to make the dive. James C. Stark of Pittsburgh, who was to handle the photography, Don Davison of Cleveland, Don Hue and Sam Davison, Jr. of Chicago, the latter three being with the DACOR CORPORATION, manufacturers of the DACOR Diving Lung, met at Castalia on the morning of November 12 where they were



Don and Sam Davison and Don Hue examining the sides of the famous tourist attraction in the region of the second shelf. The 'giant wishing well' had never before been prospected for estimated depths, wealth or water source.

greeted by the genial hosts of the Blue Hole, Everett Reeves and his wife Florence, manager and manager's manager, respectively.

Unloading the car and two station wagons and readying the equipment required a little time—from the interest displayed in the equipment by Everett and Florence, it was obvious that they questioned whether we had come prepared to dive the Blue Hole or remodel it. To allay their unexpressed concern, we briefly described each item as we prepared it for use, and they reciprocated by informing us of the known technical characteristics of the Spring.

They explained that in 1914, a slide had almost doubled the diameter of the Spring to the present size of about 75

(Continued on Page 20)

The edge of the Blue Hole, usually a forbidden area, was literally covered with skin diving equipment. Below the divers prepare for their first big dive into the crystal waters containing coins dating back as far as 1837.



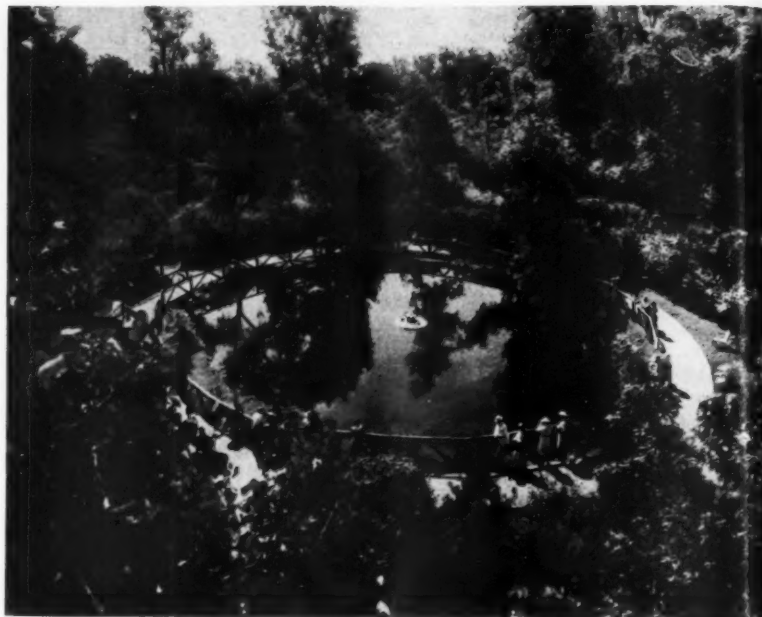


feet and that there had been minor slides of the perpendicular walls since that time without changing the apparent visible depth or appearance of the bottom. That we would probably see very few pennies since the high concentration of carbon dioxide in the water rapidly disintegrated the metal in them through chemical action; that the blueish cast to the water was probably due to an algae; that if we got into trouble while down deep, our chances of getting out were very slim; and ended with the pleasant instruction to be careful—this latter was not compatible to our presence since, if we had wanted to be exactly careful, we would not be there at all. After studying the depths through water scopes and checking the current action by brass rods with swivels on the end of 100 foot rope, we decided to tie the end of that nylon rope to a log which appeared to be at the approximate depth of the brass rods—in the event that currents, not visible or apparent from the surface, should restrict our freedom of movement with fins, we could at least use that rope as a hand elevator. At last, with cameras loaded, all equipment ready for instant use, lungs mounted and cross checked, we were ready to become the first divers to ever enter the Blue Hole.

Jim Stark was to be attached to his surface anchored 150 foot nylon line, self-adjustable so that his extra weights would enable him to remain steady at any desired depth and still assure his ability to surface at will—his instructions were to keep shooting pictures regardless of developments. It was agreed that we would all enter the water together, Jim Stark on his rope, Don Hue taking the end of the 100 foot rope to tie to the log, and with Don and Sam Davison free swimming within arm's length of either rope.

Upon leaving the surface, we could see that the sides were perpendicular down to what appeared to be a 15 foot shelf at about 50 feet and we could feel no currents, so we swam down slowly, circling to observe at close range the beauties of the ever changing vista—blues, grays, purples, old rose, all shades of green, in fact every hue of the spectrum, each separate and distinct but with an iridescence of sapphire-like brilliance which none of us had ever seen. There are spires, peaks, ranges, valleys, chasms, jungles, all in their vari-colored loveliness—like children on Xmas morning, we had too much to see in one air-tank of time, with the result that minutes had elapsed before we sightseers arrived at the first shelf and started down into the second stage of our trip.

Just over the lip of the shelf, we could feel the surge of the incoming current and the view changed considerably. Whereas we had been viewing a panorama of ever changing color, the



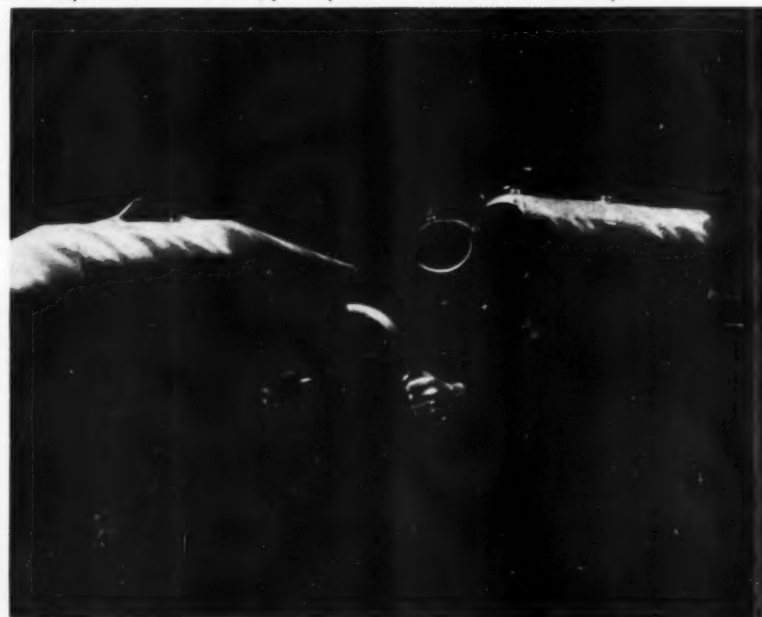
**THE BLUE HOLE**, nestled in the green trees of Ohio near Castalia, this prominent tourist attraction has brought visitors from all over the world . . . and each has paid tribute to its healing and wishing powers by casting coins on the mirror-like surface. The Indians used the location as a meeting place and the water supposedly has healing powers.

walls, which were again nearly perpendicular and almost barren of vegetation, had assumed a blue-gray opalescence of eerie character which made us immediately aware of entering a domain that was becoming increasingly damp, hardly the place to be viewing such breathtaking beauty even with the safety of our double diaphragm regulators. The blue-green water still retained its air-after-rain clarity so that we could see 45 feet to the opposite wall and distinguish the coins embedded therein,

but a pulsating surge had developed which kept our senses on the job at hand. The bottom was clearly visible but as we swam down, we found a second shelf on which the log had become lodged and our brass weights resting, so Don Hue tied the end of his surface anchored line to it.

It was here that we first looked toward the surface, which we could see quite clearly, even to the small life raft tied at the water's edge, but it was looking

Don Davison rides the Tow-Peda around in the Blue Hole acting as a taxi for the other divers who were gathering animal specimens, plant life and money from the depths. Coins were found at all depths and in some cases, piled up in mounds three to four feet deep.



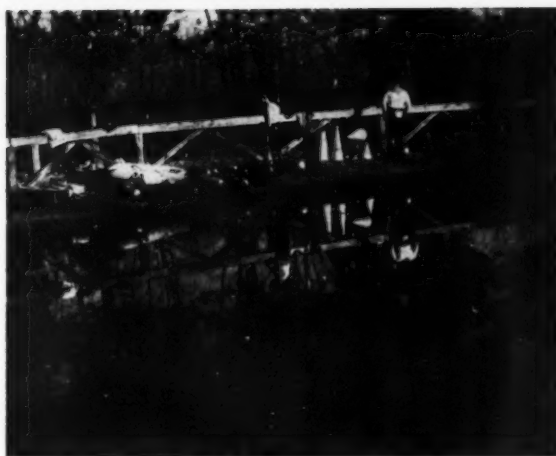
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The divers survey the equipment as they dress for the dive. This operation was for the sole purpose of determining unknown facts about the Blue Hole.



at a liquid mirror through the wrong end of a telescope. There was no object to help us gauge or identify the distances—true, we could plainly see the breakoff of the first shelf which appeared as far beneath the surface as we were beneath it, and the actual bottom could still be 5 or 50 feet away. Our gauges had been varying in depth, seemingly with the surge of the incoming water, but without constancy of rhythm or timing to enable us to take an average reading. At that point, the first tank ran dry so, as per agreement, we all surfaced, thankful for pressure compensated regulators with the built-in fool-proof air reserve so that we had normal and comfortable breathing all the way up. Certainly with the conditions under which we were working, the use of anything less than the equipment we had would not be habit forming.

Jim Stark had been staying with his rope at our level or slightly above and shooting pictures all the way down. When asked if he had taken any good pictures, he answered that they were there to get if his camera could record such beauty, and he had high hopes. Fresh air tanks, a smoke, and we all re-entered the water and swam directly down to the log on the shelf at the end

of Don Hue's rope. From there, closer examination of the bottom disclosed that it was divided into three pockets, the shallower of which had no apparent movement of water, so we swam down against the current until we entered the calm of this area.

It was here that the enormity of the wealth of the coins in the Blue Hole became obvious. Coins everywhere one looked, so thick in fact that it would be impossible to touch the sides or bottom with a finger without touching a coin. One space of about six feet in diameter on the bottom appeared solid with coins set at all angles into a calcium-like material. Sam and Don Davison were able to lift the estimated dry land mass of between 400 and 500 pounds without breaking it. 'Twas enough to break the soul of a miser to see, so much wealth being returned with a wish to nature, so up over the edge and down into the deeper second pocket.

Here, the bottom appeared honey-combed with small holes and the sides and bottom were virtually covered with coins. One diver shoved his hand into a yard square pile of coins and was up to his shoulder with his fingers still not at the bottom of the coin heap. How many?—your guess, since none of us had

ever worked in the mint, a bank, or an old coin scrap yard. There was very little water movement here and we wanted to initially explore the deeper pocket while our tank pressures were adequate, so up over the edge and way down deep, against the strong incoming water flow, to the bottom of the Spring—man's bottom, that is, not God's, as He alone will probably ever know the true depth or source.

There are three openings from which the water flows, the smallest about 6 inches by 2 feet, the next about 10 inches by 3 feet, and the largest about 18 inches by 4 feet, the latter opening supplying not only the greatest volume flow but also the stronger force. The bottom is relatively clear of vegetation and other material except for coins and objects resembling marbles of differing sizes and shapes. With a great deal of combined effort, we were able to lift a log that was blocking the entrance to the larger hole and, discussing it later, we are all agreed that the log had become petrified through the ages. The hole then looked large enough for one diver to enter so by dint of rapid fin stroking, pulling against the sides, and push assistance from the other two divers, he was able to head down into the hole to ankle depth before becoming wedged.

He later remarked that the sound resembling Niagara Falls which we could all hear on the bottom, was a whisper compared to the sound from within the hole. He added that although he had never felt subject to claustrophobia, if wanting to back out of there was any indication, then he had a very bad case of it. This seemed to be as far as we cared to go since none of us had brought along any spare courage, not to mention the necessary safety equipment for such a blind journey, so the four of us took our allergy against underground river trips to the surface for fresh tanks of air.

While smoking and discussing a further dive, someone mentioned a curious condition he had observed along one side near the bottom. Out of the path of the water flow was a patch of greenish appearing moss on the surface of which he had seen quantities of white specks that moved as though alive. It was decided to collect samples of these specks as well as some of the round objects on the floor of the deep pocket. In addition, while Don Hue obtained these specimens, Sam Davison was to take coin samples from various parts of the Spring, using a collapsible bucket as a dredge. It was agreed that Don Davison would use his Tow-Pedo for the frequent trips to the surface with the findings, and Jim Stark would continue to photograph the action. Don Hue was

(Continued on Page 43)

Don Davison points to indicate to photographer Jim Stark that he intends to enter the large inlet hole, partially visible at lower right.



## THE WIDE VIEW MASK IS BACK



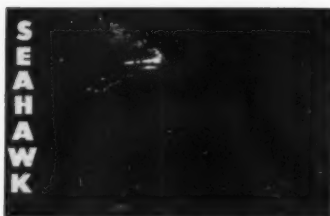
Of interest to skin divers throughout the world is the news by Swimaster that the Wide View Mask is now back in production. Several years ago Art Brown, who operated as the Spearfisherman, not only developed Duck Feet swim fins, but also developed a remarkable mask which he called the Wide View.

Brown was dissatisfied with the available masks and started work on his idea of the perfect mask. What he was looking for, in addition to the usual mask features such as comfort, perfect seal, and etc., was a mask that would: give much wider vision, clear quickly and easily and have the smallest possible displacement.

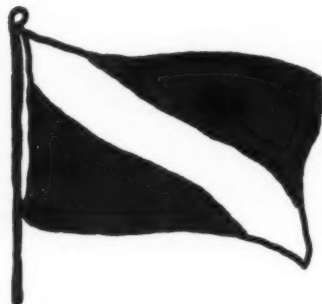
After months of testing and development Brown finally came up with his perfect mask. The prototype Wide View Mask encased all the usual advantages of the standard mask plus the added features of a water release valve, the glass pane was brought closer to the eyes for wider vision and the new mask could be adjusted to fit any and all face contours . . . making it universal for all ages and head shapes.

At that time the mask was put into limited production with the prototype molds but Spearfisherman found it impossible to keep up with demands for the mask. Then the entire Spearfisherman operation was acquired by the Swimaster Affiliate of Pacific Moulded Products Co. The Swimaster staff has spent some fourteen months refining the original prototype and has just recently completed tooling to make the Wide View Mask in quantity. ➤

## NEW PRODUCTS FOR

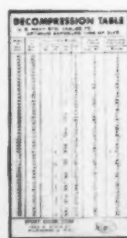


**SEAHAWK PUBLISHES NEW CATALOG—** Seahawk Products has recently published its latest catalog of Seahawk underwater camera housings and accessories, as well as other products it carries. The 8-page catalog is available free. For catalog, write firm, Seahawk Products, P.O. Box 1157, Coral Gables, Fla.



**DIVERS FLAG**  
(Caution: Diver down)

**THE PANORAMIQUE MASK—**made in France, developed by George Beuchat, one of the "fathers" of skin diving. The "Panoramique" features: slant shatterproof glass, wide angle design to increase the field of vision, soft flexible mask edge for watertight seal and a double buckle to keep strap in permanent adjustment. Price—\$4.95, Dist. by: Healthways of Los Angeles, California.



**DECOMPRESSION DECAL—**At last all decompression problems solved with our handy decal. Can be placed on tank for instant reference, even underwater. Can also be applied to any diving slate or carrying case. Try one soon. At your dealers or order direct, \$5.60 complete with instructions for placing on surface. Dealer and Jobber inquiries invited. **SPORT DIVER CORP.**, 1523 W. State Street, Milwaukee 3, Wisc.



### Voit Products On Television

Lovely Zale Perry, during one of her many appearances on "Kingdom of the Sea" the television program that has done such excellent work in bringing undersea adventure and education to countless millions of Americans. VOIT equipment, displayed, is used in the series. The VOIT Company is one of the pioneer producers of quality skin diving equipment and is an avid supporter of family diving as recreation for everyone. "If you like to swim you'll love skin diving". ➤



**UNDERWATER FLOODLIGHT—**40,000 candlepower portable floodlight for illumination at great depths or for night diving. No wires to connect, or springs to engage. Weighs only 5 pounds, sealed beam headlight, steel clad multi-cell battery with a life of 10 to 24 hours. Heavy electro-plated chrome finish. Silver contact, weather-proof switch. Adjustable head. Easy thumb control. Replacement battery installed in seconds. Price—\$9.95 from: **Richards Aqua-Lung Center**, 233 West 42nd Street, New York 36, New York.

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**HEALTHWAYS 100 FATHOM WATCH**—Waterproof, pressureproof watch . . . made in Switzerland for Healthways by Enicar, the world's finest watchmaker! Incomparable features! Tested to depths exceeding 100 fathoms. Exclusive ultra-sonic treatment assures accurate and superior performance without cleaning or oiling for a period of three years. Specially designed, unbreakable lucite crystal. Finest alloy, rust resistant stainless steel case. Price—\$49.95, Dist. by: Healthways of Los Angeles, California.



**"AQUAVOX" WIRELESS UNDERWATER COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**—To a skin diver, perhaps, the greatest limitation to his enjoyment of the sport is his inability to communicate his discoveries and new knowledge to his fellow diver. Two-way voice communication underwater over long distances has now become a reality. Developed by Cotton Associates, Inc. of Philadelphia, "Aquavox" is the new transistorized, subminiature unit that is the offspring of the AN/PQC-1 used by U.D.T. units of the U.S. Navy. Distributed by: Fenjohn Company, Inc., 90 Crick-ett Ave., Ardmore, Penna.

**NEW, INEXPENSIVE VOIT "EXPLORER" REGULATOR**—ideal for shallow diving. Top performance with any tank block. Built in automatic reserve adds extra feature when used with a non-reserve valve. Exhaust is designed to channel bubbles away from the face, assuring easy vision. Headstrap on mouthpiece keeps unit accessible, durable, safe and easy breathing. The \$37.50 Voit "Explorer" regulator combined with new "K" type Voit tank block supplies complete unit in typical Voit high quality for \$95.00.

**THE ESPADON . . . NEW FRENCH MASK**—Features: Soft mask edge to fit the most sensitive face, shatterproof glass, wide vision and a double buckle to keep strap in permanent adjustment . . . no more fumbling every-time mask is put on. Price—\$3.95, Dist. by: Healthways of Los Angeles, California.



**"VELVA-GLO" FLUORESCENT SPRAY PAINT**—A new, exciting colorful spray paint for your tank, developed by Richards, as another underwater safety measure! See your partner from a distance! Add new color to underwater photography! Permanent, water-proof, durable. Comes in chartruse, orange, cerise, green, orange-yellow, orange-red, red and pink. Price—\$2.98 ppd. from: Richards Aqua-Lung Center, 233 W. 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y.



**FRONT ENTRY CLAMP**—A real must for all cold water divers. Designed for all front entry type suits. Snap lock worm gear reduction insures a guaranteed leakproof closure with a minimum effort. Stainless steel construction. With a detachable key. Web belt liner. Complete instructions. Satisfaction or money back guarantee. Price \$2.75. Send check or money order to: Anson Marine Sales P.O. Box 5134, Detroit 36, Michigan.



**BRITISH U.D.T. EMERGENCY LIFE JACKET**—New! Wear it deflated in the pouch, deflated or inflated around your neck—answers the danger of underwater swimming. Made of specially woven drill in Egyptian Cotton, rubber proofed. Inflates immediately above or below water with special CO2 mechanism. Jacket will instantly inflate, burst out of pack and can be pulled over head. In bright yellow. Price—\$9.95 from: Richards Aqua-Lung Center, 233 West 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y.



## U. S. Divers Introduces Another Regulator

Francois Vilarem, Executive Vice-President of U. S. Divers Co., and Emile Gagnan, Co-inventor of the Aqua-Lung, view their newest item for the undersea enthusiasts, the "Aqua-Matic" regulator. This newly designed single hose regulator was engineered by Jacques Cousteau and Emile Gagnan and incorporates all the safety features of their world famous DA, DW, and DY Aqua-Lung regulators. At \$37.50 the "Aqua-Matic" is within reach of any diver's pocketbook! The regulator can be used with any standard tank block or valve combination. Aqua-Matic features a single hose, two stage regulator, built-in automatic reserve and construction of non-corrosive stainless steel, chromed brass, hard-grade nylon and neoprene. All parts are impervious to oil, salt water and sun.



**THE NEW SCUBA LUNG**—Is one of the latest additions to the many underwater accessories produced by Healthways. Developed by Sam Lecoq with the diver's safety and pocketbook in mind, the SCUBA is a two stage regulator featuring stainless steel, monel, chromed brass, nylon and neoprene for maximum resistance to corrosion by salt water. The regulator has a built-in foolproof depth-compensated automatic positive air reserve . . . nothing to adjust or regulate. The unit also features the Hope-Page non-return mouthpiece. Price—\$52.50 for regulator alone or \$110.00 for tank and regulator. Manufactured and distributed by: Healthways, Los Angeles, California.

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# Mediterranean Report

**D**URING the months of July and August this summer I made a diving trip in the Mediterranean. Our course enabled us to sample the diving along the coasts of Corsica, Sardinia, Tunisia, and the small islands of Pantelleria, Gozo, and Malta. Readers of "Skin Diver" may find interesting an appraisal of diving conditions in these areas which, as may be seen from a map, represent a reasonable cross section of the central Mediterranean.

We launched our expedition from Villefranche on the French Riviera. Our boat, the seventy-one foot motor sailer, "Little Vigilant", is owned and skippered by Drayton Cochran of New York City, a veteran mariner and enthusiastic skin diver. Diving members of the crew were his son, John Cochran, John Ryder, and myself. Johnny Cochran is a seasoned Scuba diver and is now attending Miami University. John Ryder is also an excellent diver and currently going to Harvard. We had three Aqua-Lungs and a large Cornelius compressor with gasoline motor, and so were completely self-contained.

Our diving started at Villefranche before we ever left the mainland. Here we immediately discovered several conditions that more or less existed consistently during the entire trip. 1) Game fish of spearing size are very hard to find, and those we did see were extremely shy. 2) The water is generally deep right off shore and Aqua-Lungs prove very useful for exploring and entirely reasonable for hunting. 3) While the water is pleasantly warm at the surface, a thermal layer exists at a depth of about eighty to one hundred feet. Water in this layer is so numbingly frigid that rubber suits are imperative for deep diving.

On either side of the harbor at Villefranche out near the entrance we found wonderful caves and submarine formations in thirty and forty feet of water and good visibility down to the bottom at about one hundred and fifty feet. We also discovered wonderfully brilliant reds and yellows on the roofs of the caves, more color than I have ever seen in the Bahamas or Florida. But no fish at all. On the outside of the sea wall that protects Chantiers Boissin, the boat yard at Villefranche, I did drag a big

By

Stanton A. Waterman

octopus from under a rock by merely reaching in and pulling him out. This was the first and last I got that way. In subsequent encounters I came away only with arms.

We crossed over-night to Calvi, Corsica, and spent two days diving in that area. Right outside the harbor at Calvi is lovely, clear water and interesting rock formations. But holiday skin divers have worked the area over thoroughly and there are no fish. Farther southwest along the coast behind Calvi is the rocky, forbidding Point Revellata. A light house stands on the point. We dived here in about fifty feet of water, again finding picturesque valleys and dropoffs, but no fish.

We moved south along the western shore toward Ajaccio, a day's run from Calvi. On the east the mountains of Corsica drop down to the sea, frequently climaxing in abrupt drops of several hundred feet into the ocean. From the west a strong southwest wind called the Mistral lashed into the coast and prevented us from moving in close for diving until we rounded the Isle Sanguinaires not far from Ajaccio. Here we found isolated ledges interspersed with fields of long, undulating eel grass. We worked the shore of the island, from forty feet deep on the outside to shallow water along the shore ledges and found no fish. But we did find evidence of dynamiting, a spectre that would follow us all along Corsica and Sardinia. Large numbers of sardine sized fish lay dead, scattered around the bottom, and these areas had a most depressing, sterile appearance. This type of fishing is unlawful in Europe as it is here, but is much practiced by people whom poverty drives to it.

From Ajaccio we continued south to Bonifacio at the southern tip of Corsica, still buffeted by the mistral. This wind does not usually blow in the summer, when the Mediterranean is traditionally

calm and hospitable to skin divers. But it bedeviled us and forced us to move down the eastern coast of Sardinia where we found a good lee and calm diving.

The Straits of Bonifacio run between Corsica and Sardinia. Because they are stormy and treacherous they have been a graveyard for ships since pre-Roman times. Corsica and Sardinia were both granaries for Rome two thousand years ago, and we were pretty sure that the straits could yield up thousands of amphora (in which the grain was transported) if searched carefully. We spent two days there and on the second, in the lee of the Isle Cavallo, found a mass of broken amphora scattered about the bottom in about twenty feet of water, close by some ledges. We were wildly excited, and from crevices and holes and small caves brought up seven amphora top sections, complete with graceful handles and pouring lips. We could have filled the boat with pieces. There must be many whole amphora in this area, in more sheltered caves, possibly, but we found none. As a bonus we also caught our first batch of craw fish and saw our first meru, a black grouper-like fish that is excellent eating and sport. Farther south in the straits we anchored off Isle Budelli and again found that dynamiting had laid waste the area. We found a single, lovely amphora top from the large, short oval type, buried in the sand.

From here we moved down the eastern coast of Sardinia, stopping to dive in the most remote areas where it seemed hardly possible that any diver could have preceded us. We chose interesting places in which high cliffs dropped straight into the sea and where the charts indicated sharp submarine drop offs from fifty feet to two hundred feet. In three dives along the coast we found only one good fishing area. All provided fascinating exploration around the caves and caverns and sorties down challenging drop offs. At the base of one cliff in about forty feet of water we found grouper, good sized ones of about twenty, thirty, and forty pounds. They were elusive, fast, and extremely strong, bent two spears like pretzels, and left us to nurse our prides with a good dinner's worth of smaller fish.

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Members of the Malta Sub-Aqua Club prepare to launch themselves into a spearfishing competition on the rocky coast of the western end of Malta.

Thus when we finished our runs down Corsica and Sardinia at the southernmost port of Cagliari at the end of Sardinia we had a series of rather disappointing dives behind us. One marvelous experience when we discovered the amphora, one good hunting day, and the rest good for exploration but otherwise fruitless.

We made an easy night run over to Tunis from Cagliari with the prime intention of diving off the ancient site of Carthage. On land we found the ruins so undeveloped and open that any one may dig and take fragments of bone and pottery away with them. But the water was so muddy that diving was impractical. Our anchor may have rested within inches of the remains of an ancient Roman Trirem for all we knew. A diver who invents a turbidity remover may some day successfully explore these waters.

Another dive off Cape Ban, Tunisia,


offered clear water but uninteresting flat bottom.

The little Italian island of Pantelleria lies between Tunisia and Malta. Like the famous Stromboli, it is volcanic with grotesque, black lava flows going right into the sea. The water is very deep and clear around the island, and the diving excellent in that the volcanic formations are exciting and the marine life colorful and abundant. We found a few good sized meru here in Aqua-Lung depths and brought two twenty pounders back to the boat. There is an active skin diving group on the island, and they have worked the shore waters over pretty thoroughly. I used my movie camera here for the first time on the trip, finding the great caves and distorted volcanic formations very photogenic.

Malta and its parent island of Gozo really climaxed our trip and was the end for my part of it. While the waters around Malta have been pretty carefully

picked clean by a large group of enthusiastic divers on the island, Gozo is virgin territory and provides superb hunting. We made an over-night trip to Fungus Rock area on the west end of Gozo. Here, again, high cliffs drop steeply into the sea and the water is immediately about forty feet deep by the shore, stepping down to one hundred. This area is full of fish . . . big fish. I have never seen so many big grouper in one place, even in the Bahamas and Florida, except possibly in schooling season. Grouper in the fifteen to thirty pound range abound, and old timers, about one hundred pounds and more, appear in the distance but seem very shy. Joe Grech, a member of the Malta Sub Aqua Club, took us to the place. I recall Aqua-Lunging with him in about eighty feet of water when he fired a power gun at a fifty pound Leche (like an amberjack). The noise of the explosion attracted no less than five big groupers, who suddenly appeared from deeper water over an edge to stare incredulously at us. The number of fish seem to increase with the depth, and at one hundred feet they seem to be in every cave and hole.

Waters around Malta and Gozo are clear and warm, with an excellent variety of marine life, good cover for fish, and an interesting bottom. There are a number of very accomplished divers on the island who with skill and persistence still get good catches of fish around Malta itself. Gozo is a first class hunting area for any one. The Malta Sub Aqua Club is directed by Erich Bonello and is most active and interested in assisting visiting divers. Fifty members compete in eight annual competitions for club trophies and prizes, and diving in general is very popular around the island. Night diving is making its first popular appearance there, and in a separate article I have written about my experience with a night diving party, using Cressi's new diving light.

In retrospect, I realize that my own four years in the Bahamas may have spoiled me a bit for the Mediterranean. But I have also done a lot of diving around Penobscot Bay in Maine, which hardly compares with the Mediterranean in any respects. I hesitate to make blanket evaluations, but would say about the area that we covered, that the American diver will be generally disappointed with the fish life and hunting opportunities. But he'll find the water generally clear and warm for shallow diving in summer, and he will be thrilled by the topography of the bottom. The Aqua-Lunger will find more fascinating areas to explore than he has time for. Finally, the Straits of Bonifacio are amphora territory par excellence and should successfully support search parties there for years to come. 

A part of the ancient past is surfaced by scuba diver John Ryder in the Straits of Bonifacio. John Cochran examines the neck of the amphora and wonders if it was used for grain, wine, oil or other staple of the old civilization.





Three instructors hover over the bell. Water is 92°F.



Student learns ascent technique.

# Submarine Escape Training

Three members of the Connecticut Sea Devils recently spent several days at the Naval Submarine Base in New London, Connecticut talking to the instructors and doctors attached to the escape training tank. Rocky Bartone, who is the divemaster for the Sea Devils, and Charles Vendetti, the top underwater photographer in the East, were as impressed as I with the training. Our main purpose in visiting New London was to pick up information regarding medical problems in Scuba diving, but we soon found ourselves interested in the "Buoyant Ascent" method of submarine individual escape used by the Navy.

The training tank is a skin diver's paradise. It has a depth of 100 feet and the water is kept at a temperature of 92 degrees. The water is constantly filtered and purified so that its visibility exceeds that of the fabled Florida Keys. The underwater scenery is out of this world; the diver chances upon a mermaid now and then on the inside walls of the tank.

Mr. William Buckbee, Lt. Commander, USN, and his assistant, Lt. Francis Hogan, USN, are in charge of the training program. Mr. Buckbee, whose previous command was the submarine rescue vessel "Kittiwake" (ASR 13), and executive officer of the "Chanticleer" (ASR 7), is a qualified Scuba diver, a deep sea diver and a graduate of the Submarine School. The Commander entered the service as a seaman at the age of 17 and worked his way

through the ranks to his present commission. Lt. Hogan, who previously had been executive officer of the "Tringa" (ASR 16), is also a graduate of the Submarine School and the Deep Sea Diving School.

The medical training is handled by three doctors from the Medical Research Laboratory. One of these doctors must be on hand whenever training or requalifying is going on in the tank. The doctors on duty at the present time are: Dr. George Bond, Commander, MC, USN; Dr. Peter Rizzolo, Lieutenant, MC, USNR; and Dr. Howard Moses, Lieutenant, MC, USNR. These "diving doctors" are graduates of the Submarine School, the Deep Sea Diving School, and are first class hard hat and Scuba divers.

In addition to the officers, the training staff consists of seventeen enlisted men with the ratings of chief or first class petty officer. The chief in charge is John K. Peterson, Ch. Metalsmith and Master Diver. Hospital corpsman Jacob Painter, a first class diver, was tending the recompression chamber located next to the water at the top of the tank. The other instructors are graduates of either the Submarine School or the Deep Sea Diving School, and are qualified in the use of Scuba. Their breath holding ability, underwater, runs from three to five minutes, and most of them are able to drop 100 feet and ascend without using fins, weights, or breathing apparatus. The standard equipment worn by in-

structors is a face mask, metal nose clips and swim trunks. Mae West jackets are worn during buoyant ascents. These men have all volunteered for instructor duty.

The students, after a thorough physical examination, including chest X-rays, are taken to the recompression chamber where they are subject to pressure equivalent to 112 feet. Any trainee not able to equalize ear pressure is removed from the chamber. In most cases he is given a subsequent test. The next day is devoted to class room lectures and films, so that each student is completely briefed in buoyant ascent and diving physiology. They are then taken to the top of the escape tank where they enter the water. Each student is always within arms length of an instructor while he is in the water.

They lower themselves down wooden ladders along the sides of the tank until they are about 10 feet underwater. A buoyant ascent is made from this depth. The students then climb out of the water and with the aid of view glasses they watch an instructor ascend from the 50 foot level. During this time they are advised by the Diving Officer of what to do and what not to do. Students may ask questions of the instructors, but they are not allowed to talk to one another or to lean against anything. They are required to make one buoyant ascent from the 18 foot lock and two buoyant ascents from the 50 foot lock.



Mariner pops to the surface on his first ascent.

By WILL JACOBS

Photography by  
CHARLES VENDETTI

## Training

These locks are compartments similar to those aboard a submarine and they are used for entry into the water. A buoyant ascent is made by inflating a Mae West jacket and rising to the surface at the rate of six feet per second . . . EXHALING ALL THE WAY TO THE SURFACE. In Scuba diving we ascend at the rate of 25 feet per minute as part of necessary decompression, but these men are being trained in submarine escape and the buoyant ascent method has been found to be the best way to get a man to the surface alive. In addition to the training program, the staff handles the requalifying tests that are taken by all submarine crews every 30 months.

The base has guided tours that are open to the public and I highly recommend taking the trip. The recompression chambers are available to anyone in an emergency and I am sure that the knowledge of the medical staff is at the disposal of your family physician. Your doctor should write to the Medical Research Laboratory, Naval Submarine Base, New London, Conn. for advice.

In informal talks with the training staff, I received the impression that they would like to see all civilian Scuba divers either licensed or certified by a competent organization. They are greatly concerned over the fatalities caused by Scuba diving. I think their concern is justified and it is high time that we, as skin divers, do something about it. Too



Trainee making a 50 foot ascent under watchful eyes. 85 foot lock can be seen below and an additional instructor with Scuba gear.

many persons are buying diving equipment from sources that know nothing and care less as to what can happen. An embolism, decompression, instructions or physical condition do not enter the sales conversation.

The Connecticut Council of Diving Clubs has started a voluntary certification program for members of its clubs. Every member of the Sea Devils must pass the Council's tests and submit a chest X-ray every six months. I think we have started on the right road. How about you and your club?

We are extremely grateful to the Public Information Office, the staff at the Escape Training Tank and the Medical Research Laboratory of the sub base for the wonderful co-operation we have received from them.

Class work includes watching an instructor go through the whole buoyant ascent routine through view boxes.





# NORTHEAST NOTES

By B. W. LUTHER, JR.

Northeast Council of Skin Diving Clubs,  
P. O. Box 225, Fairhaven, Mass.



Brad Luther

Under a new tournament program set forth by the Northeast Council of Skin Diving Clubs, Inc., the New Hampshire Sea Skates will open the 1958 season by acting as host club for a treasure hunt to be held Sunday, Feb. 23, 1958. The new policy of the council allows the various clubs to sponsor and conduct under the guidance of the Northeast Council, various types of snorkel and scuba contests. The individual club provides the location, labor and equipment necessary to establish the meet and act as host club to visiting skin divers, in turn the board of Directors of the Northeast Council will provide judges, the necessary prizes and render any other assistance required. Over a period of years this will allow each club in the New England area to hold a meet of their own desired type and in their home waters. The Board of Directors of the Council sincerely hope that this new policy in tournament programs will meet with the approval of the member clubs and individual divers.

Without revealing the exact nature of some of the proposed contests, I will say that they are surprisingly different and will appeal to every member of the skin diving fraternity.

In connection with the new tournament program I sincerely hope that an additional policy will be accepted by the Council. I would like to see established a year round point system over and above individual contest prizes. This system of accumulated points would be tabulated at the close of the year and from this the three top divers awarded "The Outstanding Skin Diver of the Northeast Area."

Charles Bowen from Francistown, New Hampshire, tournament director for the New Hampshire Sea Skates, together with Carl Jackson, President, and Joan Paris, Secretary, are in charge of organizing the Feb. 23rd Treasure Hunt. The meet will be held at The Nubbles, which is located at York Beach, New Hampshire. Directional signs will be estab-

lished on the main routes as well as the Maine Turnpike. The contest, for a moderate entry fee, will be open to any and all divers in both divisions regardless of whether they are council members or not. New Hampshire director and Vice President of the Council, Jack Whelan, will act as representative between the club and the Council. Let's get together at this meet fellows and show the New Hampshire and Maine Clubs that the rest of us in New England can take their frigid water in stride!!

It was pleasing to note that the unsolicited donation received by the Newport Underwater Sportsmen for their participation in searching for the fisherman drowned at Sachuest Naval Installation will be put to good use. The Newport Club will construct, place and maintain life saving buoys in the isolated water front areas around Newport. Indeed a thought worthy of praise.

Information from quite a few clubs has not been received by the author concerning your club activities. One way to establish good inter-club relationship and to comprise a strong efficient Council is by letting the readers of this column judge how active your organization is by its deeds.

In keeping with a new policy, I would like to present each month a history and achievements of the clubs within the Northeast area. Last month you read about one of the oldest clubs, this month I would like you to know about a very active club, the Bay State Aqua Club. The following report was compiled by the club secretary Gerald F. Comeau.

The Bay State Aqua Club was founded during the first week of February 1955 by Frederick H. Messina and Gerald F. Comeau. However, it took us and Paul Burke, John Sullivan, Thomas Sullivan and N. Wayne Comeau sixteen months of hard work before we finally completed a Constitution for presentation to our first club body. Our proposed Constitution was ratified, with

only slight revision, on June 4, 1956, thus establishing the Bay State Aqua Club.

During the course of our first year, we drew up a Safety Code which has proven to be one of the most stringent codes we have yet encountered in our area. During the 1956 winter period, we lost three of our members to the Armed Forces. One of these members was Fred Messina who was Club President at that time, and had just been renominated for a second term. Fred's leaving was a great loss to the club.

Though we have a small membership body, we have been conducting activities in the sport which clubs five times our size would not attempt. One such activity is "Theatre Displays," where we exhibit all types and forms of skin diving equipment, especially those items of equipment which are prohibited for use by our club members due to their lack of maximum safety features. We cheerfully answer questions from young men interested in the sport, and from parents who have children participating in, or interested in the sport.

We also are considering compiling a list of skin divers in our general area who are willing to participate in a "non-profit body recovery program." This service would be extended to any community requesting it strictly as a public service. We have successfully initiated a "Skin Diver's Training Program" during the past summer season.

In regards to our future activities, we are now planning to rent a booth at the 1958 New England Sportsmen's and Boat Show to set up our display on skin diving safety. So you see what can be accomplished with a small club body when it contains members devoted and dedicated to the furtherance of the sport.

Those members notably responsible for the success of our public service program are Wayne Comeau, Edward McCogan, and Eldon Livingston.

We hold eighteen regularly scheduled weekly diving meets every Sunday during the summer season. These meets are at a prearranged area, and all members are notified by a club bulletin. Wives and girl friends are usually in attendance each Sunday.

We plan on setting up at least one Saturday a month for wreck exploring along the Massachusetts coast. We feel, and other clubs who know us concur, that the Bay State Aqua Club is one of the best organized clubs in our general area. Also we have the highest dues rate, \$24.00 a year, of any club in our area.

In conclusion, the Bay State Aqua Club stands ready to assist in any way we can, any club or skin diver who desires information or advice concerning the sport.



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# WASHINGTON COUNCIL

By John Joachims

"Skin diving is great in Washington State." We can't remember which California guy said it, but it sums up the sentiments of the newly formed W.C.S. D.C. (Washington Council of Skin Diving Clubs) which include: Northwest Underwater Research Group, Mudsharks, YMCA Divers, Tacoma Scubineers, North-West Divers, King County Sheriff Divers and the Pile Divers of Port Townsend. Besides swapping some tall tales about the giant and sometimes-known-to-nip Northwest Ling Cod the new members got down to business, drew up a charter, discussed such things as preservation of Wild Life and set up a full list of activities for 1958 including plans and promotion for State Wide Competitive Skin Diving Events. Newly elected officers are: Sam Meln of the Mudsharks, Louie Whitaker of the Northwest Underwater Research Group, and Bob Jackson of the Y.M.C.A. Divers.

There seemed to be no slack in Northwest Skin diving this winter—some of the hardy old-timers actually prefer it because of the increased clarity of the water in wintertime and some say bigger fish. Perhaps these new records bear out the bigger fish in winter theory: John Tallman of the Puget Sound Mudsharks broke John Tallman's record on Cabaon Ling Cod with a whopping 56 pound, 14 ounce Ling Cod. Pat McDaniels broke John Tallman's record on Gabazon with a 17 pound, 2 ounce fish. Bill Mertz also of the Mudsharks took a 13 foot six inch Octopus lung diving which, if our guess is right, breaks Gary Keffler's long standing record.

On the skin diving social calendar last year the Scubineers walked away with the honors. We've heard their first dine and dance social event at the "Top of the Ocean" December 7th was quite a blast. Scubineers plan one of the same next year, but in between time there'll be lots of diving. Plans are being made now for weekend jaunts to Whidby Island and the San Juans. President of the Scubineers Mike Sorber, one of the hottest spearfishermen in these waters, came up with a terrific Christmas idea—using purple hinged pectins (scalops to youse guys), and bleached and tinted or gilded sea urchins Mike decorated his Christmas tree. Scubineers claimed it was the greatest Christmas tree they'd seen.

A newly formed club (since August of '57) to keep your eye on is the Northwest Underwater Research group. President Don Tait, an Aussie Import, is a pioneer of scuba diving and has pro-



Nor'West Divers member Lou Nelson brought in this 45 pound Ling Cod while diving in the Hoods Canal. Many of these excellent eating fish are landed by the divers in Washington and the Puget Sound area.



Another favorite target of the Nor'West Divers is the Dog Shark, common in their waters. Above, Dutch Seaman holds a 28 pounder that measured four and a half feet.

duced and directed several films on skin diving including a 30 minute color show: "Along The Great Barrier Reef", incidently with the cooperation of other N.U.R.G. members Don is producing a training film on skin diving and another film: "Wrecks in the Puget Sound." N.U.R.G. now has 40 active members and schedules a once a week outing. Outings thus far have produced the discovery of an old sailing ship anchor weighing over 200 pounds, a wrecked hull, a spectacular rescue of the occupants of an overturned boat and an all time Ling Cod record . . . Two Ling Cod: one 42 pounder, and one 35 pounder taken with one spear shot by sureshot Byron Dickenson.

Other clubs making the news last year

## CALIFORNIA COUNCIL AND A.A.U. JOINT MEETING

Meeting Being Held Feb. 12th To Discuss Merger Of The Two Organizations And The 1958 California Competitions

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, All Divers' Attention! Southern California Divers come and be heard. The council and the A.A.U. Spearfishing Committee are considering joining forces!! They want and need the opinions and help of all divers to make the merger work best for everyone.

The Council has worked long and hard for several years in the fields of Legislation, Beach Access, Water Pollution and the many endeavors necessary to keep California Divers in the water by avoiding the problems diving has encountered in other parts of the United States. For this necessary function, well performed, the Council must be congratulated, especially considering that most of this work is tedious and unrewarding.

On the other side of the sport the Spearfishing Committee of the A.A.U. and its predecessor have led the nation with the largest number of Spearfishing competitions in the United States with the largest number of individual divers in the water. These meets have been well run and have been used as examples in all parts of the country.

The proposed merger would result in an organization combining the interests and needs of all skin divers. The meeting to discuss this merger is being held at the Lynwood Recreation Hall, corner of Century Blvd. and Bullis Road in Lynwood, Calif. on Wednesday, February 12th at 7:30 P.M. Don't miss the chance to get yourself heard in this reorganization. In addition to the proposed reorganization, the schedule for the 1958 Spearfishing competitions will be fixed and the competitions organized. For entertainment Homer Lockwood will show color slides of his and Chuck Peterson's recent trip by outboard to the fabulous skin diving waters of tropical Mexico.

were the Mudsharks who copped their share of first places in skin diving meets as well as bringing home more than their share of record fish. Those Mudshark men always seem to have such a good time on their outings—last year they were chased out of the water by Ling Cods, played footsy with a 20 foot long basking shark and now they've started on Wolf Eels with Bill Mertz spearing a 59" Wolf and Dick Thrasher a 57 inch—(say Lefty, you with the short arm)—those things bite don't they? Write when you get any information on Northwest skin diving activities to: John Joachims, W.C.S.D.C. in care of KAYO, 2939 4th Avenue South, Seattle 4, Wash.



A few well defined tales give a gal conversational knowledge.

## BE A DIVING WIFE

*and make  
him like it!*

By PEGGY MARIE WALKER

WHEN a woman's home companion is a diver, anything short of full participation brings little satisfaction. I just never saw anything like it! Everywhere you look. Diving magazines. Diving gear. Tanks — masks — spearguns — big rubber feet. I didn't even speak the

Drip dry are the only kind of dishes to have in a diving house.



language. So I decided to study up on the sport.

While doing my daily chores I looked over the mags. After digesting several of the well defined dives in the pages of the DIVER, I began to get the feel of it. I could talk about diving like a veteran. I could see my husband was pleased. I tried on his rubber suit. Baggy in places, maybe, but otherwise it fit pretty good. I practiced walking around the house in the big awkward flippers. Then it happened! What had begun as a dutiful interest, to please my husband, developed into a psychopathic desire. I had to dive.

So, pitching my cook book into the trash can, I got out the equipment manuals. If I was going to intrust my life to that funny looking contraption I had to probe into the mechanics of it. Secretly I studied. I put on the tank and practiced deep breathing exercises. It was easy, and the harness was adjustable. Why, we wouldn't need to buy any more gear!

The soup boiled over and dust was pushed under the rug. With so much to be learned there was no time for trivialities. The season was waning, and I wanted to surprise Dad.

Then one day I told him. Was he bowled over! He grinned weakly, and promised to take me on the next trip. I hadn't learned it all out of the books, but after a few pointers, I was doing fine. It was great! I was a sea-nymph



The soup boils over while the missus studies Driftwood, etc.

in a fantastic new liquid fairy land. I could fly! I could hang suspended in space! I was atmosphere in circulation. Dad was so proud. He sat there on the rocks and smiled, watching me. He didn't even mind tending to the kids, after awhile. >>>

No time for trite occupations with so much diving to be learned.



SKIN DIVER—February, 1958

# LAST HOURS OF THE SCUBA

By BEV MORGAN



One of the last photographs of the Scuba as she sat at her dock on Terminal Island, California. Scuba was an excellent diving craft, having water-to-deck steps on both port and starboard, a large air compressor, galley, change room and plenty of deck space.

THE SEA was a glassy sheet of calmness. Not a breath of wind was felt as we anchored our small boat in the lee of the blue grotto at Catalina Island. The calmness was so intense that we should have known something unusual was impending. Bob Meistrell and I had crossed the channel to obtain underwater photographs in the clear Island water. To our disappointment, however, the water was too dirty for the purpose. As we leaned over the gunnel to inspect the water, a light gust of wind rippled across the water. The wind was dry, very dry, and seemed to be full of dust.

On the mainland at this time the Coast Guard lowered the small craft warning flag, and in its place the full gale flags went aloft. Boats all along the coast were running for shelter from the terrible North Easter, as we unknowingly pulled anchor to head west into the worst area of the storm.

Bob decided to have one last look at Emerald Bay before starting across the channel. As we approached Eagle Reef, the dust became thick, cutting visibility, as the wind velocity increased. The Scuba, a favorite diving charter boat from Los Angeles Harbor, was anchored on the reef. Seeing friends aboard, we pulled alongside, secured a line, and went aboard. The skipper had no advanced information on the weather, but keeping an eye on the condition of the sea, he agreed the wind was unusual.

Bob noticed that a strong current of water was passing under the Scuba, sweeping out to sea. Just then a strong, steady wind arose, and with it the sea suddenly broke into a furious rage.

Mountainous waves poured at us from the northeast. We ran with all possible speed to Emerald Bay, but there was no shelter there, so we started back, hoping to make Fisherman's Cove, the only shelter on this side of the island.

Our 16 foot outboard was handling good, but taking a beating falling off the crests of each wave, crashing into the next sea. Bob expressed concern for the divers from the Scuba. They would be in a smooth, calm world, not knowing of the surface storm, and the current may take them a great distance from their boat.

As we approached the Scuba she was taking green water over the bow, the anchor holding her nose down as the seas powered by. The skipper was in a bad position, he had to wait for the divers (Eagle reef is at least one mile off the Island), yet he could not pull anchor and run under power for fear of hitting a diver with the prop. Just then two divers emerged 100 feet from the Scuba. They were having a tough swim against the current and it looked as if they were just holding their own, so we eased over to them, keeping our bow into the heavy seas. They climbed aboard and we ran back to the Scuba. Then, way off we heard the shouts of the other four divers. They had swum with the current, and were on the far edge of the reef, headed out to sea. It took several agonizing minutes to reach their side. It was difficult to get them all aboard and keep the bow into the huge waves. The seas were very steep, and I am sure we would have capsized if the boat had turned broadside. We

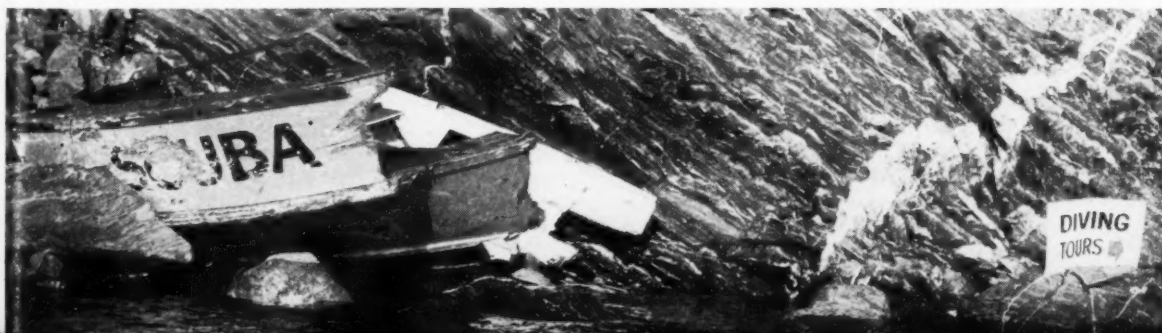
returned the divers to the Scuba, and watched as they were buffeted about by the boat which was crashing into the seas, the anchor still holding fast. Finally they all were aboard, and we waved as we headed across three miles of rough water to Fisherman's Cove.

Back at the Scuba, the main diesel was started, and the anchor was hoisted. All hands settled for the rough crossing to shelter. The skipper advanced the throttle, turning the wheel to head into the seas. Suddenly the wheel jammed! It could not be freed . . . The anchor was dropped, but it would not bite into the bottom. The height of the storm bore down on the Scuba and sent her dashing into the rocks on the steep shores of Catalina. All hands were saved with no serious injuries, but the Scuba began her dismemberment as the thundering waves continued to tear at her without mercy.

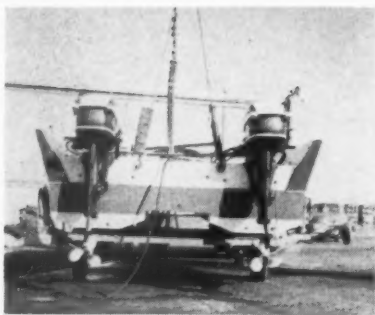
Bob and I finally made shelter and secured a fore and aft hook. Here we waited, stranded by the ever-increasing wind. A short dive replenished our food supply with lobster and abalone. We built a large fire on the beach and had a good meal, thinking the Scuba must have run to another shelter.

Next morning Bob and I hiked over the island to the Isthmus to call the mainland. Here we found the shipwrecked crew of the Scuba at the restaurant, eating breakfast in silence, sadly looking out at the still churning sea. The Scuba was no more . . . only scattered wreckage over the rocks. A swimfin here, a mask there, all evidence of the tragedy.

**VENGEANCE!** The diving passengers aboard the Scuba have taken much from the sea . . . now the sea has reclaimed all. The shattered ship was a total loss. Nothing was saved. Homer Lockwood Photo.







The Power Cat under the hoist, ready to be dropped into the water. Motors are mounted wide, aligned with the twin hulls, offering most power.



As the "Cat" clears the dock you can see the streamlined twin hull. This construction gives the Cat the greatest amount of water control.



Photograph taken from the bow shows tremendous amount of space in the Cat for storage, diving equipment, etc. High side-fins aid in interior dryness.



After the diving gear is broken out there is still ample room to move about without stepping on tubes, spears, masks, lobsters.

# Skin Divers go....

## POWER CATIN' AROUND

**S**KIN DIVERS are taking to outboards in droves to reach those far off diving spots or inaccessible areas long untouched and unexplored. The theme is "go by boat", eliminating lugging all of the heavy gear most divers need and use.

A revolutionary boat is now on the market that will capture the fancy of all skin divers. The POWER CAT catamaran will more than satisfy the divers for speed, safety and maneuverability. The marvel among marvels is the amount of weight the "Cat" will carry and still maintain good speed and stability.

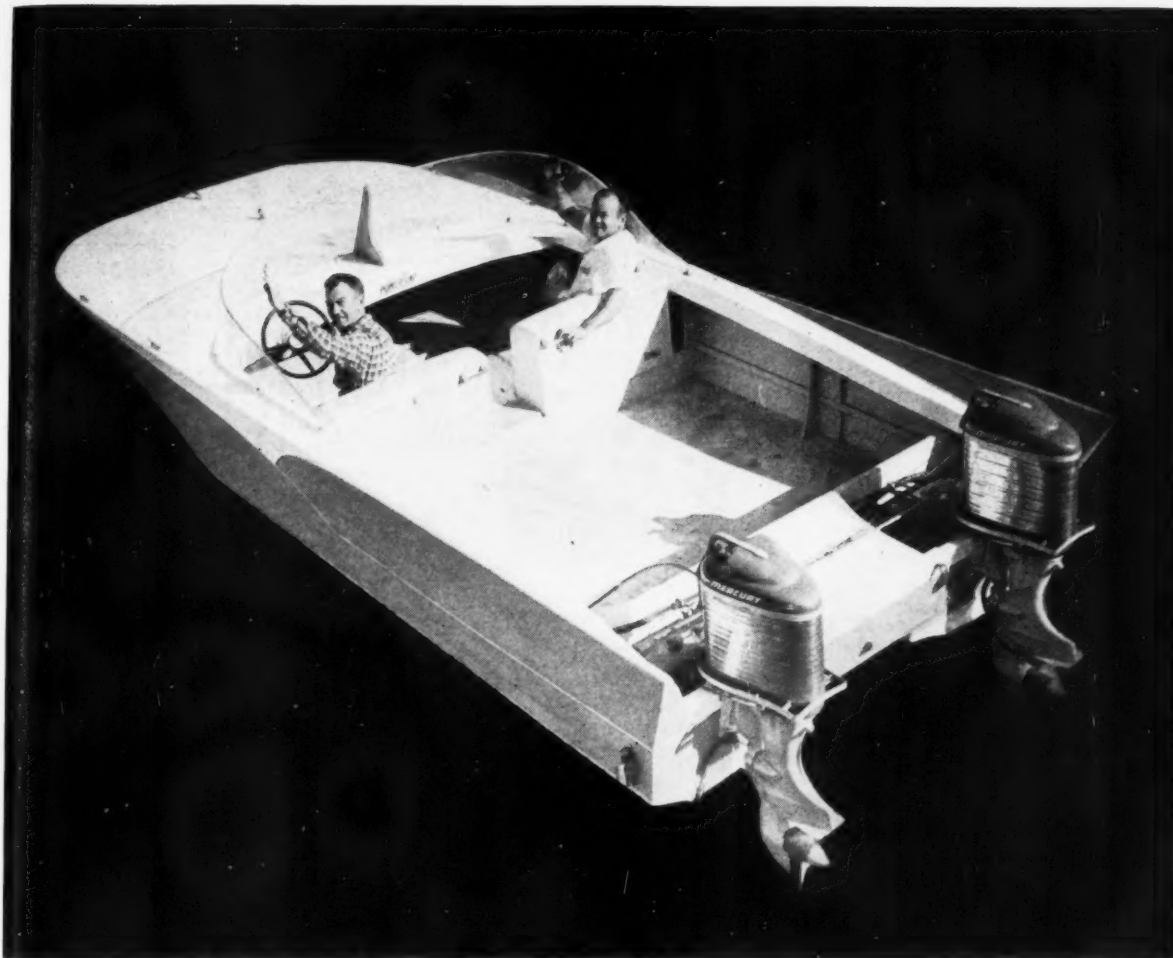
The sleek new POWER CATS offer all the advantages of modern engineering coupled with the principles of boat building practiced by the earliest Polynesians. The boat has wonderful dryness in smooth or choppy seas, with no slap or pound, rock or roll so common in small boating. A diver may walk around the deck with no listing, lurching or tipping. All diving equipment may be loaded on one side of the boat if desired leaving ample room for sleeping or picnicking on over-night trips. The 16' Cat has a 7' 6" beam which accounts for roominess and extra space.

The craft only draws 2" of water making launching in shallow areas very easy. The high and dry design accounts for such good top speeds and low gas consumption, giving a wider range of "flight".

Ray Leger, the designer of POWER CAT, in recent races around the Channel Islands of Southern California and the Salton Sea has left most every other boat in his wake, in all classes. Leger says, "I have tried to flip my various models and it resulted only in tight turns, even at full bore". He also states, "the lack of skidding and good cornering also contributes much in winning races and for the skier is most advantageous in maneuvering in restricted areas".

"Skin Diver" readers wishing to know more about this exceptional boat may write directly to the following address: POWER CAT BOAT COMPANY, 13512 Lakewood Blvd., Paramount, California.





Bernard Zwilling Photo

The nineteen foot Power Cat easily seats five people and will sleep two in the bunk space under the bow. The above model with the powerful Mercury outboard motors is the ideal set-up for four skin divers and their equipment. Gas tanks are placed in convenient wells.

Catin' along at high speed the movie photographer's boat, also a Power Cat, cuts through the wake without a bounce. The smooth, gliding hulls of the Cat makes this boat delightful riding for all sportsmen, their families and their equipment. Easy entry from the water is made between the motor mounts.





## NEWS CURRENT

News from around  
the globe compiled and  
edited in Skin Diver offices.

Local diving news from readers welcomed.

**FLORIDA'S SILVER SPRINGS, FLORIDA**—Arlene Francis originated her daily NBC variety program from *Florida's Silver Springs* during the first two weeks of January.

**ALABAMA**—Skin diving may be a 20th century sport, but it was a 19th century livelihood for Alabama coal miners. One of the cheapest methods of producing coal over a century ago was mining it under the waters of the *Black Warrior* River fifty miles from *Tuscaloosa, Alabama*. Wedge-shaped crowbars were used to loosen the coal, then the men dived into the river and lifted the coal to the barge above.

**DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**—A trio of Durban divers will attempt to capture the South African diving record early this year. The present record of 173 feet was made by Mr. G. Aitken-Smith, a frogman in the South African Naval Reserve. Aspiring to break this record by 27 feet are Alan Tiley, Alan Gould and Derek Wilkinson. All three plan to carry cameras on the 200 foot dive.

**SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**—A Japanese-Australian salvage group will begin salvaging more than 30 ships sunk off the coast of New Guinea during World War II. The ships are expected to yield more than \$2,800,000 in salvage. Salvage operations to begin early this year are expected to take two or three years.

**LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**—Because of the constantly increasing demand for skin diving training, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation has arranged to conduct special classes early this year to augment the number of qualified skin diving instructors in Los Angeles County. There are at present only 45 part-time certified skin diver instructors now available in the area to fill the demand for underwater safety training. Persons interested in becoming underwater instructors may write the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 834 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles 15, Calif.

Four hundred pounds of shark can be knocked out in one minute or less while still in the ocean with a water pistol full of a narcotic known as M.S. 222, report Dr. Perry W. Gilbert and F.G. Wood Jr. of Cornell University in the journal *Science*. The drug was used on sharks and rays for a study of the animals' habits and was applied just prior to pulling the animals in the boat. The first stages of recovery take place within five to thirty minutes after the shark is put back in the water.

**CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**—A team of skin divers headed by Graeme Reid of Cape Town have discovered four ancient cannon on the deck of a sunken galleon off South Africa's Pondoland Coast.

**COOS BAY, OREGON**—Skin divers are salvaging a 30-foot fishing vessel belonging to Carroll Sanford and A.J. Shoemaker of North Bend. The craft sank recently at its mooring at the Charleston Small Boat Basin.

**OTTAWA, CANADA**—Navy skin divers from HMCS York in Toronto have recovered a number of valuable parts of an RCAF CF-100 which crashed into Lake Ontario off Toronto during rehearsal for a Canadian National Exhibition air show in September.

**SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**—A pair of young skin divers have come up from the ocean bottom with a historical find that traces back centuries to a now extinct Indian tribe. Pieces of pottery and statuettes of the Taino Indians were found by Michael Silva, 12, and Allen Fenton, 10, in the waters off the Isla Verde. The 14th century tribe was the first Indians to be seen by Columbus in the Bahamas.

**MAPLE SHADE, NEW JERSEY**—Planning an expedition this summer for an unidentified Spanish galleon which sank in 1758 are Jeffrey Kramer and Steve Wien. The pair of divers believe they have the approximate location of the vessel.

**OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA**—Al Mikalow of the Coastal School of Diving in Oakland, California, has recently installed a recompression chamber to be used by commercial, salvage and skin divers.

**NEW YORK**—Stephen H. Tjaarda has been appointed New York State YMCA scuba commissioner. Tjaarda will coordinate the scuba activities in the New York metropolitan area and YMCA's of the state. There are presently twenty YMCA's offering skin and scuba diving instruction in New York.

**MANSFIELD, OHIO**—Gene Florence helped Marion officials wind up a breaking and entering case against three Ohio men by recovering stolen office equipment valued at \$1,000 from Evans Stone Quarry.

**NEW YORK**—The New York University and American Museum of Natural History have acquired a 100-foot yacht from the Army Corps of Engineers for a research project on sedimentation distribution and deposition. Some of the graduate students of NYU are serving as skin divers for the project.

**TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA**—Members of the Underwater Research group of Toronto made a 14-day holiday visit to Yucatan, Central America. The dozen members of the group sought to discover more about the mysterious Mayan civilization in Yucatan.

**MOURILYN, AUSTRALIA**—Three thousand bags swirling around the wrecked sugar lighter Wortanna at Mourilyn hampered a diver's attempts to inspect damage. The 225-ton sugar cargo in the ship has dissolved and the bags are being spread by the tide.

**ENDICOTT, NEW YORK**—A cigar-shaped self-powered propulsion unit manufactured by an Endicott company enables skin divers to enjoy hour-long excursions at depths of 100 feet. The 43-inch device is powered by a six or twelve volt aircraft battery, weighs one and half pounds submerged and 70 pounds out of water and has the propeller unit mounted forward.

SKIN DIVER—February, 1958

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**GERALDTON, AUSTRALIA**—Two Geraldton spearfishermen, **Irwin Cameron** and **Neville Thompson** have received state record certificates from the **Underwater Skin Divers and Fishermen's Association of Western Australia** for fish they speared. **Cameron** established a record with his 27½ pound mulloway and **Thompson** with a 29½ pound silver drummer and 1¼ pound red mullet.

**LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA**—More ammunition was picked out of the ocean as skin divers brought in a canister containing a 5-inch live shell. A live detonator head was fished out October 20.

**MIAMI, FLORIDA**—Opening of the winter season at **Miami Beach's Deauville Hotel** featured many unusual stunts including a shark rodeo in the pool with skin divers rounding up the critters.

**BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA**—Preliminary dives on the wreck of a sailing ship in **Moreton Bay** have been made by **Norm McLennan**. **McLennan** believes the wreck may be the **Princesa** reported to be carrying \$1,400,000 in gold bullion when she sank on March 15, 1863.

**FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY**—Ten members of the **New Jersey Underwater Research Group** plan to make an underwater map of the **East Coast** from **Nova Scotia** past the **Florida Keys** to the **Caribbean Sea**. The group will be headed by **Frank J. Curley**. The mapping project will be done on 16 mm color film as an educational aid for divers and scientists. The project is expected to take at least two years to complete.

For shallow water operations the old style diver with heavy equipment seems to be on the way out. The **Book of Knowledge Annual** says that the freer moving frogman carrying his own air supply instead of depending on a long airline connected to a pump, can more easily carry out underwater inspection in docks and harbors.

**QUANTICO MARINE BASE, VIRGINIA**—The newly formed **Pioneer Skin Diving Club** has among its planned activities the study and aid in conservation of marine life and instruction on the proper use of skin diving equipment.

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**—Three members of the **Northwest Underwater Research Group** saved a man from drowning when his dinghy overturned about 100 yards from the yacht basin on the northwest side of **Vashon Island**. The divers were **Jim Morrison**, **Tal Wegg** and **Donald Talt**.

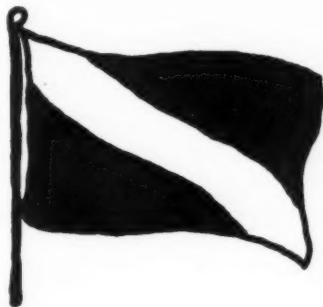
**CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA**—**Dr. Willis E. Pequegnat**, professor of zoology at **Pomona College**, has received a second contract from the **Office of Naval Research** for submarine biology research along the **Southern California** coast. **Dr. Pequegnat** is investigating submarine fauna on rocky reefs in the region from **Corona del Mar** to **Laguna Beach** down to depths of 100 feet. By using scuba equipment he is able to investigate the fauna directly.

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA**—**Pat Lewis** and members of the **Charlottesville Rescue Squad** recovered the body of a drowning victim in **Albemarle Lake**.

**BUFFALO, NEW YORK**—A member of the sheriff's skin diving unit reported to police that his car, containing \$1000 worth of diving equipment had been stolen.

**WASHINGTON, D. C.**—During the national **A. A. U.** convention the group assigned a championship event for the first time to a site outside the **United States** or its territories. The 1958 competitive skin diving event, consisting mainly of spearfishing, was awarded to **Grand Bahama Island**.

**QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA**—Captain **D. Milne** has designed and developed a type of underwater sled which he claims is unique. The sled, which he calls a "water-beetle," is about nine feet long and five and a half feet wide at its widest part. It is controlled in a similar manner as an airplane, with a joystick and rudder-bar.



**DIVERS FLAG**

Means: Caution, Diver Down.

Surface craft are requested to maintain a distance of 30 yards.

**WASHINGTON, D. C.**—For years the **Coast and Geodetic Survey's** oceanographers have been losing instruments over board. Now they have hired a skin diver who can go down and find them. The survey—the federal agency that maps the floors of oceans—revealed this is the first professional skin diver to join the agency in its century long history.

**BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA**—Contracts estimated to be worth almost \$112,000,000 will be offered to 200 **Japanese** divers by **Thursday Island** master pearlers. Two of the island's leading pearlmen are on their way to **Okinawa** to recruit divers for the new pearling season which starts next March.

**NEW YORK**—A group of **Florida** skin diving collectors provided five "fish cleaning shrimp" to the **New York Aquarium**. The tiny marine creatures, less than an inch in length but with two antennas that measure an inch and a half, eat the parasites off fish. The creatures, known as periclimenes, are not yet on public display.

**BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY**—Skin divers are expected to seek the wreckage of the **Debbie Sue**, \$30,000 clam boat which sank off the coast with its captain and two crewmen aboard.

**CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA**—The recovery of a **U. S.** missile cone which returned to the earth's atmosphere was made by skin divers in the **Atlantic Ocean**.

**YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN**—**State Police** skin divers recovered a cash register from the **Huron River**. The cash register was thrown into the river after it had been taken from the **Evergreen Tavern**.

**NEW YORK**—**Alexandre Sinel** began painting underwater thirty years ago in the **Red Sea**. It wasn't easy at first. His pencil floated to the surface and he kept being carried away from his subjects by the currents, and he reported "You have to be prepared to kill fish as well as draw them."

**PERTH, AUSTRALIA**—A newly formed research group, the **Neptune Submariners**, have collected 120 varieties of fish from the **Lancelin Island** area. Most of the species of marine life will eventually find their way into the marine section of the **WA Museum**.

**HOBART, TASMANIA**—Skin divers **Terry Lobban** and **Merv Morley** have discovered the wreck of the four-masted barque **Katherine Shearer** which sank at her moorings off **Dover** more than 100 years ago.

**YUMA, ARIZONA**—Skin divers recovered a car that carried **Mrs. Florence Evans** to her death in the icy waters of the **San Carlos Reservoir**. The victim's husband was being questioned as investigation revealed that a \$100,000 insurance policy had been taken out on her life the day before the accident.

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**—**Clayoquot Sound**, isolated arm of the **Pacific Ocean** about halfway up the **West Coast of Vancouver Island**, was the site recently of a search for undersea "treasurers" by groups of explorers from **Seattle** and **Oregon**. Aim of the expedition was to recover old cannon from wrecked ships. Two guns were found and marked with buoys for future removal.

**BULLAWAYO, SOUTH AFRICA**—Newest sport in this **South African** country is skin diving. Habitants of the country thought the sport would have little scope in the country as most of the rivers and dams are infested, but **Eric Barnes** of **Cape Town** found diving in flooded mine shafts exciting.

**PERTH, AUSTRALIA**—**Sue McDaniel**, 16, who used a borrowed breathing apparatus, finished fifth in the elimination tests for the **West Australia** diving championships at **Woodman's Point**. The young girl gave the best performance of all the competitors in the underwater navigation tests. This was the first diving championship of **West Australia** with winners participating in the **Australian** championships.

**WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND**—A television unit was used at **Wellington** for the first time with shooting of a thousand feet of film on the activities of members of the **Sydney Speleological Society** in the **Wellington Caves**. The film included pictures of the approaches of the **Caves**, the interior of the **Cathedral Cave** and activities by frogmen members of the **Society** who searched the pool at the bottom of the **Cathedral Cave**.

**DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**—Two **East London** deep sea divers narrowly escaped death in diving mishaps in the harbor. **Douglas Orr**, chief diver in **East London**, was sucked against a gash in the hull of the **City of Port Elizabeth** and had his life line severed. **John Jacobus Blom**, a learner-diver who lost consciousness in 35 feet of water, had to be put in an oxygen tent in **Frere Hospital**.

**NANAIMO, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**—Another underwater logging operation is revealed in this **Canadian** province. Three divers, **Laurie** and **Alex McCracken** and **Ron Stafford**, are assisting the company of **MacMillan and Bloedel Ltd.** in recovering "sinkers" in their log ponds.

**ASTORIA, OREGON**—Skin divers helped police determine a car carrying **John Kustura** to his death was not carrying other occupants when it plunged off the fishing dock at the foot of 37th street in **Astoria**.

**CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY**—Skin divers join search for the recovery of a 16-year-old boy who drowned in the **Delaware River** while on a duck hunting expedition.



# Driftwood

... Hello and all that formal nonsense. There are those who insist this fine old page is becoming rather soddened with kindness and respectability. Possibly I have been picking the wrong letters, for publication, and letting all the juicy psycho-mail carelessly fall into File Thirteen. I'll have to watch things, after this. We simply cannot afford to have kindness and respectability infecting this particular spot: people might begin confusing us with the advertising. Anyway, if you'll jam that mouthpiece into your yap and follow me, we'll git us some exploring done...

## POISONED PEN PALS...

I've finally lowered myself to writing to this so-called page. The only thing I like about it is the Pen Pals. Emancipation of the Pen Pals is the only thing I look for on this page. In the December issue a certain woman had the nerve to look down on Pen Pals. This old hag is very, very jealous because no one will pay her any attention. I will be glad to hear from any girls who would like to exchange correspondence.

JAMES PEZZARO  
1822 T S.E.  
Washington 20, D. C.

How about my fixing you up with some old hags for pen pals; they need the attention.

Man, do I ever agree with Mona Mae Olsen in regard to the teenage element among us. Kohler, the *Driftwood* bit improved 1000% the minute you dropped the nauseous Pen Pals section. Naturally, a lot of kids will write you, insisting they deserve a place of their own—and you're just plain crazy, man, if you see things their way. Isn't *Driftwood* supposed to be for adult readers?

LEW MENDER  
Eureka, California

Not especially.

I don't like the way you people are knocking us Teenagers on skin diving. I know a lot of Teenagers who are better divers and more safety minded than some of you so-called grownups. But, for the most part, I'm glad only a small percentage of the adults take this stupid viewpoint against Teenagers. I have some buddies who think enough of me, as a Teenager, to have taught me diving. I also think Kohler is a pretty square guy to take with a smile some of the things you people say to him... and not tell you off.

RUDY FISCHER  
Lake George, New York

They just don't appreciate my self-control, kid.

I think that creepy square, in the December issue, should be shot through the head with a speargun for what she said about us juvenile delinquents; and, Kohler, if you had any sense you'd put Pen Pals back in *Driftwood*.

RON HYDE  
1629 Marengo  
Alhambra, California

Ah, go on back to your comic books.

You don't know how mad I have been since I read that letter from that (skag) Mona Mae Olsen. I wish they would put arsenic in her lung and send her down to 90-feet.

PAUL FLOTHO  
2412 Hagen Drive  
Alhambra, California

You been borrowing Hyde's comic books again?

## DEPARTMENT OF ALMOST ANYBODY...

If and when a can break my sister to my Aqualung, I'll send you a pix as I see your page is again, quite often, deficient in photogenic pulchritude. Incidentally—as any beachcomber knows—driftwood may get tossed about in storms, but it always floats. Underhanded Backstabbers can take that for what it's worth.

DON ROULSTON  
Duke Station  
Durham, North Carolina

You must be a college man: nobody I know can spell pulchritude, much less use it in a sentence. Bully, old chap.

I would appreciate it very much if you would tell me the size of the largest Snapper ever knifed. My diving partner, Jay Tarpley, would like to know.

JIM STUDEMAN  
Coral Gables, Florida

Yeah, and people in hell would like ice water, too.

Kindly do me a favor: please inform the (CENSORED) staff, that in the fabulous article on *Cenotes of Yucatan* by Bob Marx,



in the December issue, they misspelled Bob's last name. In answer to the *Sea Jesters'* diving invitation (November issue): this mermaid is available—have gear, will travel. The same goes for my cellmate, Felicia Barenberg. Our pics enclosed.

MARY STANFORD  
4811 Melrose Avenue  
Hollywood 29, California

Whoever it was that said the younger generation is definitely 'going Victorian' had better dig out their ear-trumpet and give another listen. Nice looking little dolls, aren't they.

I'm in the United States Coast Guard and have recently been transferred to Bay City, Michigan. I would like to get in touch with some skin divers or a diving club in the Bay City or Saginaw, Michigan areas. I've been diving for about two years and am fully equipped with lung, suit, etc. Keep up the good work, Kohler, and don't let the soreheads give you a hard time.

DENNIS C. FOUST, (280-553) BM1  
Saginaw River Range Rescue Station  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Essexville, Michigan

You've got, maybe, a defense mechanism for me?

I don't like you and I don't like *Driftwood*. In fact, I think you both are pretty lousy. I wish the editors of SKIN DIVER would come to their senses and scuttle you and your terrible page. I live for this day, believe me.

INEZ KIMBALL  
Yonkers, New York

Oh, go suck an egg, honey.

A strong likeness between yourself and the character on this card (it was a *Christmas Card* featuring a *lazy Santa*) prompted the sending of same. You will be hearing more from us in the New Year!

PATRICIA HALL  
Marlborough Underwater Club  
Blenheim, New Zealand

Threats leave me infamously untouched: I'll bet you're gorgeous and I hope you'll send pictures.

Here's a picture of myself—holding a 6-pound Cabazone and a 4½-pound Bass—both speared off of Bird Rock, just south of La Jolla, California. Bob Wilbur and Bob Enns (with whom I do most of my diving) claim you have a prejudice against La Jollians and this would probably never reach your column. Is this so?



HARRY MARRINER (age 14)  
528 Colima Street  
La Jolla, California

As you can see—Wilbur and Enns are mistaken: the only thing I hold against La Jolla is that it's so close to San Diego.

SKIN DIVER—February, 1958



I think the SKIN DIVER is the greatest. I've been skin diving for 15 months and, about three months ago, purchased a lung. Up to now, I have just been exploring—but now I have a Hawaiian sling-type spear and am starting to spearfish. This place is truly loaded with fish!

LT. JG. RICHARD WRIGHT,  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Sir, you will be deader than the proverbial mackerel, sir, in my book, sir, if you are so rash, sir, as to combine that lung with that speargun, sir, and consider yourself any kind of a skin diver, sir.

In regard to Fran and Pat Cookes' letter (September issue): there is too water in North Dakota, but it so happens that I live in an area where Minnesota's 10,000 lakes beckon. So, Fran and Pat, if you're ever in the Fargo area—look me up. I'll find you plenty of water.

JERRY MOSEMAN  
633½ First Avenue, North  
Fargo, North Dakota

Should they bring their own bucket?



Here's a photo to help fill up your page. Next month, if you're good, you'll get a picture of the girl this diver sometimes takes with him (her name's Gerry). I was going to ask a sensible question, but since you never give sensible answers—I won't bother.

TOM O'ROURKE  
Flushing, Long Island  
New York

Gonna play it cagey, eh? Coward.

**GOLDEN THOUGHT FOR THIS MONTH:** "Gee, hon, I thought you would never get around to teaching me how to skin dive! Are you sure I've got all these weight-belts on correctly?"

#### ONE-MINUTE MELEE . . .

This is for some of the stuffed-shirt husbands I have read about in the *Driftwood* page. My husband is so glad that our kids and me are interested in diving that he bought himself a double-unit tank, gave me his single-unit tank and went to all the trouble of making small scale tanks for our two youngsters, Billy (age 8) and Wenry (age 6). My husband gets plenty of time to dive with his buddies, too.

DOT WOOD  
Brooklyn, New York

Yeh? WHICH buddies?

You win, Kohler. I'm sending one drenched doughnut (drenched in what? By the next packet-steamer and I now enclose a picture of some of that underwater loveliness (sorry, cats—she's all suited up). This is one wife who enjoys going with hubby on diving trips. She's even willing to dive. Keep up the good Boy and Girl Public Relations work, Kohler, and us married men may win out yet.



PHIL & EILEEN CONEENY  
Bronx, New York

Win out? Win out what? For that matter, who's fighting?

Please . . . please . . . please, Kohler, no more of those sickening letters from wives telling how happy their little old husbands are to have little old them along on diving trips. Since when have you joined the *Dominating Wives Marching Club and Propaganda Society*?

VERN J. LAMBERT  
Los Angeles, California

Well, they made me an Honorary Member and so . . .

Kohler, I agree with the fellas: Women belong at home. Skin diving is really a man's sport and any dame who hasn't got sense enough to realize her man should have some time to himself is just begging for trouble. Know that?

JENNY LEE MOORE  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Hey, Sylvia, read this fine, intelligent letter from Jenny Lee . . .

Why don't you settle this Take Them or Don't Take Them bit by simply putting it to a vote? My gosh, you're splurging too much space, each month, on a dull point. Why don't you wise up that merely needling each side won't do anything constructive?

FLETCHER HARRIS  
San Francisco, California

Why don't you sit down and shut up?

. . . kinda murky, wasn't it. Well, that buckles the flaps on this month's dunk. I suggest you always send black & white photos since color-pix are taboo around this imaginary jetty. Drag your gear and those characters you call your friends, out here, again next month—and we'll see what we can dredge up for laughs.

uncle rethok and his match-stick raft

## Power Cat

## the DIVER'S BOAT

SPEED • COMFORT • POWER • SAFETY

The sleek POWER CAT Catamarans offer all the advantages of modern engineering coupled with the principles of boat building practiced by the earliest Polynesians.

Construction is solid oak keels, chines, stems and transoms with marine plywood planking, complete fiberglass covering with permanent colors impregnated in the resin.

Skin Divers . . . This boat offers everything you desire. **Call or write today!**

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By PAUL D. SCHMANKA

125 Reservoir Rd.

Newington, Conn.

Connecticut Council Member of the Year 1957 is Jack Shaughnessey of the Norwalk Skin Diving Club. Jack, who was a charter member of the Council and who has served as recording secretary since it was founded, was the unanimous choice of the Council representatives who made the selection on the basis of recommendations by the Council's member clubs.

There were four other selections made. Bob Strubell, of Hartford's Associated Skin Divers, was the unanimous choice for Spearfisherman of the Year. John Hector of Norwalk, and George Swindell of Bridgeport's Connecticut Underwater Diving Association were, believe

it or not, both unanimous choice for the spot of Scuba Diver of the Year. Organized Scuba divers from all over the state, individually put on record their faith in both men with the statement, "I'd rather have either one of those guys with me in the water than anybody else I know." Such consummate faith in their abilities as lung divers could only be demonstrated by naming the men as co-holders of the honor spot.

Underwater still photographer of the year is Charlie Vendetti of Hartford's Sea Devils. Some of his work appeared with a *Skin Diver* story, "Connecticut's Sunken Submarine" in the October issue. This piece was written by Will Jacobs, also of the Sea Devils, who was named movie photographer of the year by the Council.

Vendetti is a photographer for the Hartford Times, but as any photographer, professional or amateur can tell you, a camera on land is one thing; in the waters of the Atlantic—especially the New England land section of the Atlantic—is a mechanism of a different shade.

Jacob's top-notch color film of a cruise in the Caribbean, including plenty of underwater footage, plus some New England underwater stuff, made him an easy choice.

Shaughnessey's contribution to the organization and growth of our Council would be difficult to compute. But, if he had a dollar for every hour he's put into it, he could probably retire.

Strubell's selection was automatic. As we've previously reported, Bob won the Connecticut Open Spearfishing Tourney, and was top point man in the Council's own all-summer meets. He also was on the Connecticut team in the AAU East Coast's tourney at Montauk Point last summer.

Hector and Swindell both have ser-



Jack Shaughnessey, Council Member of the Year 1957 (left) and John Hector, chosen by fellow members as the Scuba Diver of the Year, along with George Swindell.

vice experience as hard hat divers as well as hours and hours of free diving with lungs. Cool and level-headed under pressure, they have the added distinction of doing most of their diving in the murky waters off our coast.

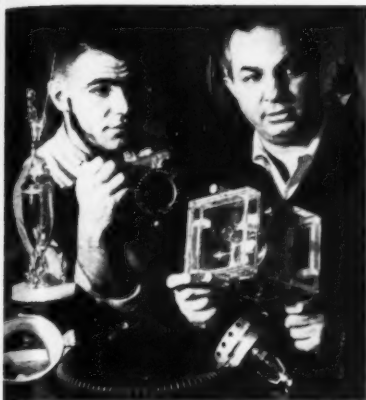
Officers were elected by the Connecticut Council at its annual meeting. This may not sound like much of a news item, but the fact is we've never had any, aside from Jack Shaughnessey, who has been acting secretary from the beginning, and Joe Stalk of the Sea Devils who had acted as treasurer, also since the first gun was fired. But, after a year of passing the chair around to a Council representative from the host city, we decided to fill the regular offices by ballot.

So, the first president of the Connecticut Council of Diving Clubs is Will Jacobs. Like Shaughnessey, one of the founding fathers, Will has devoted a great deal of his time, effort and pocketbook to help make the Council a success. He has also been our regular representative to other councils in this area.

Elected Vice President was the above signed. Our Recording Secretary is Jack Shaughnessey, but sharing his load is Cliff Johnson of the A.S.D. as Corre-



Bob Strubell, selected by Council members as the Spearfisherman of the Year. Bob is a member of the Hartford, Conn., Associated Skin Divers Club.



Shooting their way to honors in the Connecticut Council were Charles Vendetti and Will Jacobs who were awarded "Still" and "Movie" Photographers of the Year. This team worked together on the article "Submarine Escape Training" in this issue.

sponding Secretary. Cliff is also president of the Associated Skin Divers, was the number two man in the Council's summer individual championship and a member of the AAU team representing the Nutmeg State.

Still Treasurer, under what he firmly believes is a temporary arrangement, is Joe Stalk. He, too, is a president, in this case it's the Sea Devils, and that is a position he's held since the Sea Devils organized.

The Connecticut Council's program

and plans for setting up tests under which skin divers and Scuba divers may voluntarily work for certification by the Council, got a big boost from a diving doctor at the New London sub base recently. The MD said the only suggestion he had to make was based on some new findings which the Navy has made about lung divers' physical qualifications. He suggested we include as compulsory, a lung X-ray.

According to the Navy, the last two men who died after lung dives in the training tower at New London were thought to have succumbed to embolisms. But post-mortem examinations proved that in both cases the men had previously undiscovered weaknesses or deficiencies in their lungs which X-rays would have disclosed. This proved that there were no flaws in the Navy program of diver training in the tower tank which might have led to embolisms. It also gave us in the Council the best reason for complying with the doctor's suggestion.

To pass the test to qualify as a skin diver, the Council member must have been a member of a club at least sixty days; he must swim 300 feet with no equipment; swim fifty feet underwater with no equipment; surface dive twenty feet with no equipment; recover a diver in ten feet of water and tow him fifty feet; make two separate ocean trips of at least one hour each with an instructor; demonstrate satisfactorily a method of artificial respiration; demonstrate the Council-approved hand signals; pass an oral quiz on basic diving physics, water safety and related subjects.

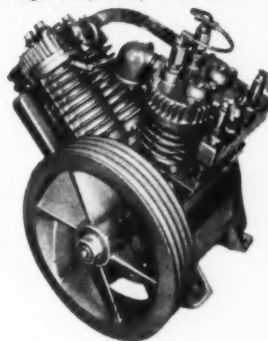
To qualify as a Council-certified Scuba diver, the diver must first have qualified as a skin diver, then, using masks, fins and snorkel, he must swim 1,000 feet; swim 100 feet underwater; surface dive thirty feet; also, spend the air in one standard cylinder underwater and dive at least seventy feet; also with a lung, spend twenty minutes underwater at night or in dark waters and spend one hour in a pool submerged, during which period he must replace items of gear which will be removed by the instructor; he must also be able to remove and replace all his equipment underwater, be able to tow a cylinder 300 feet; pass an oral quiz on advanced diving physics, safety, and the care and function of a lung and its regulator.

Applicants for the Scuba test must be 18 or older and those who are under 21 must have the consent of their parents or guardian.

All the clubs in the Connecticut Council have approved and accepted these tests. The next step involves setting up the test for the instructors. This, it is planned, will be a real back-breaker. >

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# FLORIDA SKIN DIVERS ASSOCIATION

By JOHN M. ERVING, JR.  
P. O. BOX 7373  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

At the first annual meeting of the Florida Skin Divers Association under the new charter, held at St. Petersburg, William H. Taylor, Jr. of St. Pete nosed out Miami's Jack Slack to become the new FSDA President succeeding Harold J. McEvoy of Tampa. Live wire Bob Phifer of the Reef Divers (Miami area) won unanimous approval as the new Vice President. Walter E. (Bud) Cox remains as secretary, and Harold (Pappy) Flood holds down the newly created separate post of treasurer. Both Cox and Flood are members of the Miami Makos.

Adoption of the new "Divers Flag" now used by most diving associations across the country, marked a forward

stride in boating and diving safety. Consisting of a white diagonal stripe on a red field, when flying from your mast, safety float, or other conspicuous place, it will inform all passing boatmen that divers are below and extreme caution should be used or the area by-passed. Ted Nixon and the Great Lakes Diver (newspaper) are to be commended for their efforts in establishing this new national boating signal flag.

Art McKee, overlord of the Sunken Treasure Fortress on Plantation Key in the Florida Keys, has requested that we ask every diver reading these printed words to send any and all information they may have on unusual underwater finds that might give clues to the location of a still undiscovered wreck. Art, as you may know, is one of the world's very few professional full-time treasure divers. It takes fragments of information to build a story on the whereabouts of these long lost wrecks and the final result of compiling these apparently insignificant morsels of information may be the finding of still more historic and valuable relics on the ocean floor. If

you've run onto something anywhere in the western hemisphere, send the dope to Art McKee, Sunken Treasure Fortress, Plantation Key, P O Box 165, Tavernier, Florida.

Although they represent two of Florida's finest tourist attractions, all aquatics planning diving vacations to Florida please note that diving is not permitted at either Rainbow or Silver Springs. This is not, of course, to discourage traveling divers from stopping by, but is for the very practical reason that insurance casualty rates would be prohibitively high if diving were permitted.

In an early issue, we expect to have the whole story for you on Ray Odors vacation trip to the famous Walker Cay Club in the Bahamas. Ray, as you may recall, won this all expense paid trip for two for his winning efforts in the recent Southern Open Skin Diving Tournament held in Miami Beach. Walker Cay proprietors Stan and Hannah Griffin report that every moment of time will be pleasantly occupied from the time they fly out of West Palm Beach until they return several days later.

Cordiality, peace, and friendly discussions ruled the day when the morning of November 3rd rolled around and two teams of gladiators sat down at an Orlando conference table to solve some problems. First stringers Serge A. Birn (Louisville, Ky), Marie Dessel, (Pensacola), Gene Vezzani (Atlanta) and Harold Aycok (West Palm Beach) made up the AAU bench, while Bill Duncan (Jacksonville) Walter Cox and Harold Flood (both of Miami) and John Erving sat in for the FSDA. The third man in the ring, so to speak, was Ed Miller, middle of the roader in from Tallahassee.

When what had previously been only scribbled signatures on mis-interpreted letters appeared in the flesh across the room, and turned out to be rather decent human beings after all, the serious problems sort of disintegrated into relative obscurity and (personal) fence mendings became the order of the course of events.

Nine persons departed Orlando late in the day with each feeling, I believe, that the past was the past, and all hail to the future.

FLORIDA BUSINESS SERVICE NOTE—Lew Maxwell, one of Florida's most famous underwater sportsmen, announces his new one-stop diving charter service. You can walk into Lew's place at 1331 Biscayne Blvd. in Miami and sign up for a one day economy trip for four, a 4 day Bimini cruise, or go for the full treatment on a 162' dreamboat on an extended cruise throughout the Caribbean. For advance reservations, try your telephone. ➤

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# UNDERWORLD FLOURISHES IN VICTORIALAND

By BILL HOOK

To most people, the thought of Victoria, B. C., Canada, conjures up visions of golf courses in the sunshine, hanging flower baskets, the sunken Butchart Gardens, horse drawn tally-hos, or even tea at the Empress Hotel. Little do these innocent tourists suspect that there is under the surface, another world, an underworld, peopled with fantastic beings who wait for weekends or holidays to take up their other life. But the tourist need not fear, for these people of the other world are quite harmless, they are neither gangsters or hoodlums, they are merely members of the Victoria Skin Diving Club.

Does the thought of cold Canadian waters chill you? These young frogmen find them merely refreshing. However, their equipment is a little different to that of their fellow divers in California or Florida. It is necessary to wear full dry suits nearly all year round.

A typical Saturday afternoon could be spent diving for crabs in the Inner Harbour, in front of the Provincial Parliament Buildings, or a trip to the Breakwater might be undertaken. There a diver can easily find scallops and abalone, in abundance, and if it happens to be his lucky day, he may find a giant King crab. If he has his spear gun handy, he may bag rock cod, black bass and ling cod, the latter having been weighed in at over sixty pounds. There are also other fish to be speared, not so tasty perhaps, but which offer fair game. There are the skate, wolf eel, (more viscous than the moray eel) also several species of harmless sharks. The Breakwater is also the hang out of many large octopus, and if you have never wrestled with an octopus, here is your chance for an exciting experience.

For the real sport, though, wait for the Halibut season to open. Then you may head out a quarter mile to Brothie Ledge Beacon Light, when halibut weighing up to 300 lbs. can be found. These fish are very powerful and can put up a terrific battle.

Another afternoon might be spent riding the basking sharks which can be found anywhere in the local waters. A dorsal fin slowly cutting the water, is a sign that there is your steed, and you're off.

If any divers are visiting in Victoria, and wish to get information, they could contact: Skin diving club members Frank White, Phone 4-5636; Bill Hook, 5-8619 or Derrick Rigby, at 9-3403.

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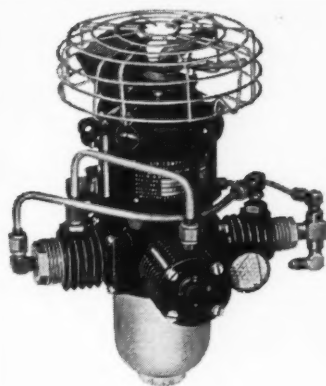
The Monterey Suit, being custom made to each individual's measurements, assures perfect fit and absolute safety. It is attractively designed in black with green trim.

**\$56<sup>00</sup>** plus tax

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### The Paper Nautilus...

## A RARE AND VALUABLE SHELL

By **JOHN Q. BURCH**

*Argonauta argo* Linnaeus. This photograph was taken by Mr. Antonio Tittoni of Rome, Italy. The animal was taken alive, and immediately photographed in glycerin.

The thin and delicate shell, known as the Paper Nautilus, is oddly enough, neither a true shell nor a *Nautilus*. It is an egg case, and as might be expected is only formed by the female. The male is much smaller. The *Argonauta* is a cephalopod and related to the *Octopus*. All are mollusks.

The assumption that the ancient writers were not scholarly, and that our knowledge of animal life has been entirely gained in modern times is far from a fact. However, it is almost incredible that almost nothing was known about this group until this century. The fabulous story of this creature sailing the sea with the shell for a boat, and with the arms upraised for a sail, was such a good yarn that one is inclined to regret that it is a phony.

There are a number of species of *Argonauta* inhabiting the warm seas of the earth. We have three or more from the Pacific coast of North America, usually called the Eastern Pacific, and while these are not as large as *A. argo* L., they are very elusive. Skin divers are urged to watch for them. They are very much worth taking. Few collectors have them, and our knowledge of them is far from complete. If found, be sure to make all observations possible, and preserve the animal as well as the shell.

## Sub-Aqua Job Opportunities

This column is offered to any and all employers seeking divers for various positions in their firms. Copy should be brief giving complete name and address and state requirements needed from applicants. This is a service to the industry and the sport offered at no charge for the space used. Applicants for the jobs listed should write direct to the advertiser and not to "Skin Diver."

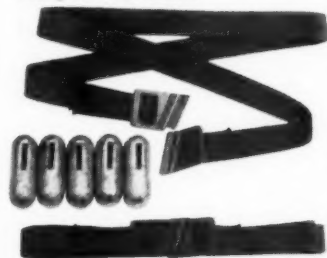
### MIDWESTERN DIVERS

In our diving company we have found it to a great advantage to use skin diving equipment for short, shallow, and fast dives. We often get calls all over the Midwestern area. They mostly consist of light salvage work, such as outboard motors, etc. We would like to contact any skin divers in this area who are in good physical condition, have their own equipment and have had some prior experience in light salvage work. We often have to turn down jobs because they would require too much traveling expense to make the job profitable, whereas, if there is a good skin diver in the area he could perform the task with a reasonable amount of profit. Midwestern Divers Underwater Salvage and Construction, 726 Franklin Street, Wausau, Wisconsin.

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Everything for the Skin Diver

## BLUE HOLE

(Continued from Page 21)

successful in getting a quart jar full of moss, silt, water, and a number of white specks. It was the opinion of biologists who examined this specimen that the moss was a form of algae which flourished in water of that chemical content, and that the specks were a miniature specie of fresh water shrimp which thrived on the algae. This opinion was merely from a cursory examination and they felt that subsequent and thorough study might determine more comprehensive findings.

A few of the marbles collected by Don Hue were opened and found to contain coins, apparently having collected calcium over the years and so shaped in being rolled about by the water currents. To open one of the 'marbles' and find an 1837 Half Dime or an 1858 silver Three Cent piece in good condition is enough to stir the imagination as to the history of the coin. Sam Davison made one scoop on the bottom with his collapsible bucket and the coins totaled \$22.60, one scoop from two different locations on the perpendicular sides totaled \$10.40 and \$10.80 respectively.

With these figures as a cross section on which to work, undoubtedly by knowing the approximate area of the coverable Blue Hole, doing a little simple arithmetic, and then supplementing that with a few weeks of intensive work with a mechanical brain, would result in a reasonable approximation of the wealth of the coins—at least the actual face value. The intrinsic value could not be estimated since the history surrounding the dates of some of those coins would render them quite valuable to collectors—frankly the four of us would collectively settle for the face value—so we have the clues to the answer to one question.

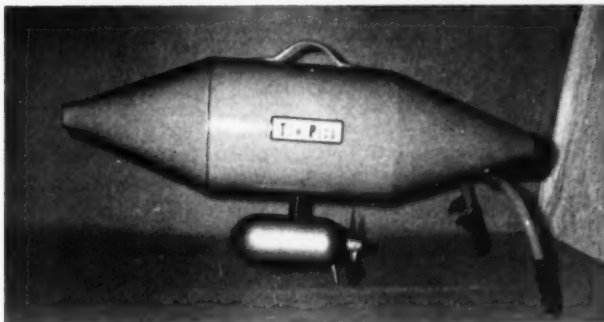
The depth of Man's portion of the Spring we can estimate so we have about half of this answer. The source of the water is majorly from two of the three holes on the bottom of Man's portion but where it is supplied to him from God is not for us to know.

Trip a failure??? No sir, very well worth while, in fact, there are four divers who, if they had to select only one place in which to do all their future

diving, would unanimously select the Blue Hole. And it is doubtful that with all the diving they hope to do, they would ever be fully convinced that they had seen all that the Blue Hole has to offer. It is assured that those four divers will visit the Spring as often as the occasion permits to pay reverent tribute to such rare beauty by gazing down into the crystal clear blue-green depths with which they have had such intimate contact but yet know so little about.

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Endurance team captain Bennett Winston (left) and manager Austin Huhn with Cornelius compressor.

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## CLUB NEWS

Page 44-49

Montclair, New Jersey . . .

**NEW JERSEY SKIN DIVING CLUB, INC.**  
By Barb Kidder

Our second successful season of diving has been completed and our members are now concentrating on keeping in fit at the YMCA in Montclair, N. J. along with the new members taking the qualification tests.

We have lost one of our most valuable divers, Dave Ketchum, to the state of Georgia because of business. He will certainly be a great asset to the club that grabs him down there. Although we have lost one member, we have also gained three more, namely, Bill Halpin, Blossom Brower and Jack Meibaum. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to find a tanker in 80 feet of water. This will be our first project come spring. Three winter dives have been made in a local quarry with excellent visibility at 130 feet. Those decompression tables come in handy at that depth. The quarry is now being worked again and will probably be too dirty to dive in until early spring.

Tickets have been mailed to our members for our Second Annual Dinner and Dance to be held on March 29 at the Friar Tuck Inn in Cedar Grove. Mike Miele and his five piece band will be featured and we are all looking forward to a evening of wining and dining along with a few fish stories on the side.

Anyone interested in the above club address inquiries to R. J. Kidder, Longhill Road, Apt. 8D, Great Notch, N.J. Little Falls 4-2341. ➤

Reno, Nevada . . .

**NEVADA DESERT DIVERS**

By Loring Persigehl

While far-ranging Nevada Desert Divers (from Europe to Canada) have been called upon for varied activities this year from underwater search to racing stand-bys, major home activity lies around Reno. Where underwater visibility is 100 feet or better, Lake Tahoe still remains our favorite diving area in this vicinity. Though surface temperature is around 40 degrees F., on some shorelines lack of wave action during winter months even further clears the water making December photographs taken by Ted Boyer Jr. sharp and clear even at depths up to 100 ft. Visiting divers all comment on the transparency of Tahoe's depths and we take this opportunity to invite anyone happening to be in this area to visit with us year 'round. Bring your warmest exposure suit, all the underclothes you can find, and we'll furnish the hot coffee.

Address correspondence to: Nevada Desert Divers, c/o Loring Persigehl, 2300 Prater Way, Sparks, Nevada. Ph. ELgin 5-8037. ➤

St. Petersburg, Florida . . .

**CORAL CAVE MEN OF  
TREASURE ISLAND**

By John Stephan

The Coral Cave Men is a growing club and we have a number of prospective members at the moment. Our programs for the coming year consist of more diving trips that will take us farther from home out into the Gulf. If we can, we will visit the coral reef off Bridgeport which is just a bit north of here on the Suncoast. We hope to have a more complete record of our underwater activities on film this year. If it turns out favorably you can expect some good underwater shots with future reports. ➤

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**Poughkeepsie, New York . . .**  
**DUTCHESS DIVERS, Inc.**

This past season, we had an excellent dive at Lake George in the town of Hauge. It was late in the season and dry suits were a must.

There was a lot of local interest in our equipment. We answered all questions more than willingly, for as a club we realize the need of goodwill between divers and people of a diving area.

The water was crystal clear and we took pictures at sixty five feet. One of the divers found a dime at seventy five feet and another diver found an anchor at eighty feet in pretty good condition.

We are planning a return dive for this coming season, for we feel the trip is well worth it. »

**Lubbock, Texas . . .**  
**WEST TEXAS SEAHORSES**

**By Buddy Logsdon**

The past summer has proven very successful for the club as we have made many trips to Possum Kingdom Dam in Central East Texas, Lake J. B. Thomas in West Texas, Balmorhea State Park area and underwater caves and various lakes near Santa Rosa, New Mexico and many others.

Four of our members recently had the opportunity to try their new neoprene suits in the 37 degree water of a local swimming pool after the first snow fall. Television station KCBT-TV made movies of the divers in the cold water and they appeared on television that night. The members were D. B. Weeks, Bill Woodell, Jimmy Woodell and Buddy Logsdon.

The West Texas Seahorses would consider it a privilege to correspond with other diving clubs, address letters to the club c/o D. B. Weeks, 3001-28th Street, Lubbock, Texas. »

**San Fernando, California . . .**  
**GULLS and BUOYS**

**By Carol Larson**

The San Fernando Valley has formed a new skin diving club by the name of "Gulls and Buoys". The constitution and by-laws have been drawn up and elections have taken place. Officers are Joe Marshall, Irving Litman, Carol Larson, Shirley Hughes, Herb Hughes, and Cap Wallington.

At present, members of the club have undergone a Los Angeles County approved skin and scuba diving course, through Herb Hughes, a Certified County Instructor.

The majority of the diving takes place on the coast of Ventura County.

Those interested in joining the club write "Gulls & Buoys" 15126 Germain, San Fernando, California. »

**Hartford, Conn. . . .**  
**SEA DEVILS**

**By Tony Cassano**

It seems that "the call of the sea" is loud enough to be heard above the howling of the cold wintry winds here in Connecticut. Our members are still pushing out into the cold numbing water to take their pictures and find "where all the fish are waiting." Will Jacobs, Charley Vendette, and Roc Bartone went to take some movies of the submarine off Waterford. "The visibility was terrible down there but what fish! Lots of big tautog living in and around the sub."

At the same time Eddy Jacobs and myself had beautiful visibility off White's Point not five miles away. We snorkeled around for awhile but couldn't locate a single fish. After putting on our "tanks" we went out to the farthest breakwater. Here the rocks were larger, the holes between were bigger, and the water was deeper; still no fish. "Next time we go, we go to the sub," said Ed.

We voted upon two new members at our last meeting. Art Santos and Don Dupont are busy weekends gathering data beneath the surface of some of our larger lakes. »

**Yokota Air Base, Japan . . .**  
**FINATICS SKIN DIVERS' CLUB**

**By Carolyn Avery**

The name of our club is the Finatics Skin Divers' Club. We have approximately fifty members and about fifteen remain active during the winter months. We are located two hours inland from Yokohama and the east coast of Japan.

We have been diving since about April at Zuishi, Enoskima and Chikasaki reefs and have two club owned air rescue service type boats. We are interested in hearing from other clubs in the Far East. »

**Madison, Wisconsin . . .**  
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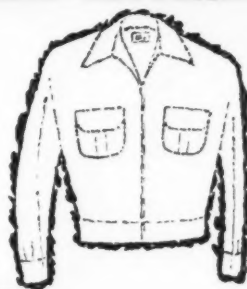
**By LeRoy Abrahamson**

The ice is in—our barge is out—but most of our club's divers are enjoying the exceptional "under the ice" diving of this state's lakes in winter. When not under the ice, the club is trying to promote water safety for the coming summer.

Lake Mendota's famous Percharee will be coming up soon. The meet will draw fishermen from all of the surrounding states to compete for several prizes. We underwater fisherman will get our share of these elusive perch (they provide the hole through the ice free). The contest is great fun for all once you get unfrozen.

We still would like to hear from other Diving Clubs. Mail your letters to me at 622 Gately Terrace, Madison, Wisconsin. There are a lot of fish and sunken craft in our lakes and we would like to arrange some outings with other divers. »

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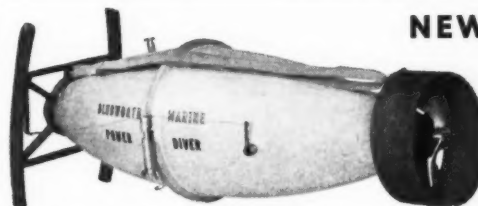
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Salt Lake City, Utah . . .

## SALT LAKE SKIN DIVING CLUB

By James M. Parks

Fourteen members and three wives turned out for the long trek from Salt Lake City to Puerto Penasco, Mexico, for our Thanksgiving trip. We left Tuesday, November 26, and arrived back in Salt Lake on Monday night, December 2.

Our first day of diving was Thursday, and we started in great style. We had two boats, one was designed for water skiing on small lakes. We charged out into the open sea in this boat and quickly swamped it and cap-sized. Our diving was cut out for us; we spent the first day retrieving gear from the bottom. A Mexican fishing boat aided us in raising our boat and motor. A few of the boys did get some fish. Bill Sandburn shot a good sized grouper. Gordie Hansen got two smaller groupers with one shot. Then all hands turned to our salvage job.

The next two days the wind blew something fierce. The water was murky and cold. We all tried diving, but with no luck. So we contented ourselves with beachcombing and playing with the numerous octopus found in the area. The entire group went into town for a "field trip" (we had set up camp at Chulla Cove), and had a rip-roaring time of it.

We had planned to leave for home early Sunday morning, but Sunday turned out to be a perfectly beautiful day; no wind, warm, fish, and clear water. There was no leaving then, and everyone had a wonderful time. We finally wrapped up camp late Sunday evening.

December 3, Kennie Feck of a Denver club phoned and chatted with me. We'd like to hear more about an inter-club, river diving outing. Please write James M. Parks, 368 Beta #4, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Stoneham, Mass. . . .

## BAY STATE AQUA CLUB

By Gerald F. Comeau

All returns on the sale of the club chance books are in. We sold 210 dollars worth out of a possible 250 for a total average of 84%. The winner of the Webcor Hi-Fi Portable Phonograph which was given away at a prize was won by a Mr. Joseph Fornier of Waltham, Mass.

We want all skin divers (who are able to make it) to drop in on us and say hello at the 1958 New England Sportsmen's & Boat Show being held at the Mechanics Building in Boston from February 1st, through the 9th. We intend on putting up quite a display, one which we feel will appeal to anyone interested in the sport. Our booth will be located on the main floor facing the Huntington Avenue entrance.

Congratulations are in order for Bruce and Ann Crossman who are the proud parents of a baby boy born last October. Now Ann can get in a little diving at the summer meets with her husband.

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Atlanta, Georgia . . .

### ATLANTA SKIN DIVING CLUB

By Ernest Fuchs

The photograph above is of the first, second and third place teams in a treasure hunt sponsored by our club. Reading from left to right, we have first place, Norman Penny and George E. Krasle, second place, Ernest Fuchs and Eugene D. Vezzani, third place, C. H. Christiansen and Jack Favor.

The event was held in one of our north Georgia quarries in which we do most of our diving during the winter months. Our summers are kept quite full diving in the Gulf of Mexico and competing in spearfishing contests sponsored by the Georgia State Skin Diving Association in conjunction with the A.A.U. Some particulars of interest, maximum depth 130 ft., water temperature at the surface 56° F., on the bottom 50° F., temperature of air 60° F., visibility on bottom 15 ft. ➤

Buffalo, New York . . .

### BUFFALO AQUA CLUB

The members decorated the basement at 3041 Bailey Avenue which serves as the club headquarters. We have also recently installed a large Remington compressor and we feel that we have the best air station east of the Mississippi.

Ted Rattle and Leonard Brogowski attended the Treasure Hunt given by the Syracuse Aqua Kings and would like to thank them for the great time they had. Further thanks go to the Underwater Club of Canada at Toronto for entertaining Leonard Brogowski and Art Witakowski at their Christmas party.

Diving classes, social events and other activities are being planned for the winter months. Anyone in the Buffalo area interested in diving can get information on the club at the Kensington Home Store, 3041 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo, New York. ➤

Los Angeles, California . . .

### PESCADORES

By Al Lipson

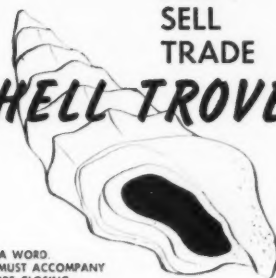
The Pescadores have had a full calendar of activities during October and November. After announcing the incorporation of their organization as a non-profit skin diving club, a "wing-ding" luau was held at Sequite Beach. The October 5th festivities at Sequite were high-lighted by two dives for abalone and lobster, and the luau was culminated with trophy presentations for the best diving performances of the year. Jack Opperman copped trophies for the biggest fish and largest lobster, the weights being 27-lbs. and 15-lbs. respectively, while Don Finley's 7 3/4 inch Rock Scallop and Al Lipson's 8 1/2 inch Abalone netted them each awards for the year.

Pescadores' top divers Jack Opperman and Don Finley proved their skill by being the only men who brought home fish during the skin diving contest at Pismo Beach on November 9th, thus taking the trophies for the biggest fish of the day and the greatest aggregate.

The Pescadores finished a highly successful year with a trip to the Anacapa Islands aboard the "Tomboy". ➤

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SKIN DIVER—February, 1958



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Information on any of the above would be most welcome. All correspondence should be addressed to me, and should include the following information: Under diving locations; depth, water temperature, water clarity, points of interest (odd rock formations etc.), picnic facilities, boat liveries, and the charge made for their use. Under air stations; hours of operation, and the charge for filling a 70 cu. ft. tank. (Individuals who wish to be listed should send in the above information also.) Under clubs; club name and address, and the name and address of corresponding secretary.

No payment can be made for any information submitted, but credit will be given for all material used in the section devoted to diving locations.

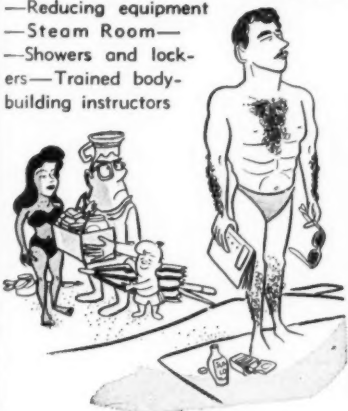
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**SUB-MARINERS**

By Don Lea

The Toledo club journeyed to Detroit recently to dive with the Treasure Unlimited divers of that city. Quite a large group from both clubs attended.

About 17 members of our club demonstrated diving techniques at the Mayfair outdoor pool recently and gave a similar demonstration on New Years.

We again met with Michigan clubs for a dive in Crystal Lake, Mich. Several boats were furnished by the Michigan divers.

Joe Zeiler and Dough Cook went to Nassau and several other islands in the Bahamas late this summer on the skin diving ship "Polynesia". They brought back some nice trophies and pictures. Other club members who visited Nassau this summer were Don and Dot Lea and son David and Lee Johns. Some of their colored movies taken in Nassau were shown at a club meeting.

Two of the club members, Don Lea Jr. and Dick Loesch, helped lay a pipeline across a lake in Wisconsin in November. ➤

**New Orleans, La. . . .**

**BAJAOS SKIN DIVING CLUB**

By Burnie Dodge

Our diving this past summer was limited because of the conditions left by the storms. We could only make six club sponsored trips to the Gulf. Quite a few of us did a lot of diving in Lake Ponchartrain where the water is only 15 to 20 feet, but it contains plenty of sheepshead weighing 8 to 10 pounds. The largest fish caught this year was a Jewish weighing 80 pounds, speared by Frank Gray in the Gulf. It was small compared to some that have been caught.

We have big plans for the coming year with quite a few fishing rodeos to attend, and plenty of club sponsored dives, both fishing and exploring.

If anyone wishes information on this area or if you want to join us on a dive, contact me at: 740 E. Wm. David Blvd., Metairie, La. ➤

**Redwood City, Calif. . . .**

**FATHOM PHANTOMS**

By Ron Rochefort

While the Phantoms waited Mother Nature's storms out they voted in a new president and accepted a new member into the club. Our new gavel pounder is Kerwin (Crusher) Brown and our new member is Glisson Morris. Glisson had the enviable position of diving for Scripps Institution of Oceanography this summer and intends to specialize in marine biology.

The latter part of December proved to offer good diving and we took full advantage by spending the holiday weekend in Monterey where we dived behind Cannery Row for Ling Cod. The finest part of the trip was in the evening when Dusty Shivers of the Cormorants prepared Chowder XX, a mixture of Ling Cod, Cabazone, crab, clam and the mysterious factor that makes Dusty such a fine seaside chef.

The Phantoms will be busy readying their boat for the summer months to come and sharpening their spear points in anticipation of the Ling Cod expected soon in Monterey. ➤

**EAR KLEER**



A new nasal decongestant designed for the Underwater Diver, aviators or others subject to pressure changes. Makes "popping" the ears easier by shrinking swollen membranes from colds, allergy, sinus, etc.

Medically tested and approved. Booklet on "Pressure and the Ears" included with order.

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# Divers' Bulletin Board

**RATE:** Personal notices accepted only. No Commercials. 10c per word. Payment must accompany copy before closing date, first of month.

**FOR SALE**—Guaranteed new, never used, Aqua-Lung, 2 tank block, 2 hours, 2 stage constant reserve regulator. Original price \$230.00. My price postage included \$205.50. John Gordon, 190 Oak St., Foxboro, Mass.

**FOR SALE**—Three 16.8 cu. ft. shallow water diving cylinders with K valve. Use for pool instruction or child diving. Weight eleven lbs. Thirty minute underwater time. New I.C.C. test, \$17.00 each. Charles Diehl, 231 Canterbury Place, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

**COMPLETE DIVAIR UNIT**—For sale, like new, first \$80.00 buys it. Roy Kid, c/o The First National Bank of Memphis, Memphis, Tenn.

**FOR SALE**—Equipment, brand new, never used. Club disbanded. Lungs, fins, suits, guns, masks, etc. Will sell very cheap. Gary Weiss, 2830 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn 35, N. Y., Phone SH 3-0995.

**UNDERWATER CAMERA**—Complete 35mm camera and custom-made case, with 5 outside controls, lensport, viewfinders, filter, special heavy-duty underwater flash, etc. In perfect condition. Sacrifice for \$125.00, or will trade for oxygen rebreather. Also complete heavy duty underwater flash like new \$15.00. For information and picture write to: Jack Gerlach, 125 Grand Ave., Mount Clemens, Michigan.

**WANTED**—Full Pirelli suit, medium size, in perfect condition. Contact: Frank, Box 1102, Galveston, Texas.

**FOR SALE**—Custom CO2 gun and recharge tank \$36.00; has big stainless spear. Also, sell cheap, 3/16 stainless wire cable and high pressure hoses. Write: Holmes Helson, Box 3072 Rubidoux, Riverside, Calif.

**INGERSOLL-RAND**—3 stage 15 cfm 3000 psi compressor, \$200.00 f.o.b. Las Cruces, New Mexico. John Coffee, Box 156, Mesilla Park, New Mexico.

**BELL & HOWELL 200EE ELECTRIC EYE CAMERA**—Leather case and Mako housing all like new. Money back guarantee, total value \$455, will sell for \$265.00. Write "Lou," 2219 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Florida.

**CONTEST!**—A prize of \$15.00 is being offered to the skin diver who writes the most interesting authentic account of an adventure he has had undersea. Article to be typed and not to exceed 900 words. To be received no later than May 1st, 1958. The winning article will be published in the magazine of the "Buttonwood Farm Shell Auction" in late August, and a complimentary copy, ordinarily \$1.00, will be posted the winner. All articles not accepted will be returned to the authors. Overseas spearfishermen invited to join contest. Send article to: Miss Elizabeth M. Wistar, 200 Montgomery Ave., Chestnut Hill, Phila. 18, Pa.

**CONTEST FOR BEST UNDERSEA PHOTOGRAPH**—Do you have a clear photograph showing a skin diver underwater, with one or more fish, and other sea-life in the composition? An award of \$10.00 will be sent for the photograph selected by our committee, the same to be published in the "Buttonwood Farm Shell Auctions Catalogue" in August, 1958. Unaccepted photographs will be returned. Send, before May 1st, to: Miss Anne Rowland, Sec.-Treas., "Fairview Corners," Meadowbrook, Penna.

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Room 904

SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

## CORNELIUS FILTER TANKS

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Tank unpacked.....(NEW)——\$6.00

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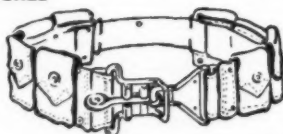
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Compressed Air \$1.25

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### Skin Diver's Map of

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Locations, water conditions, etc. Send \$1 to:

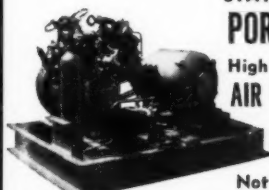
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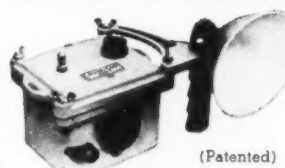
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